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Arab-Israeli Talks

Negotiators on Progress of Syrian, Palestinian Tracks

TA1606194093 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Excerpts] The United States is willing to join in providing guarantees to implement security arrangements in the Golan Heights after an agreement is reached between Israel and Syria, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said. In Washington, the Israeli and Syrian delegations are discussing the security regime to be set up between the two states after the signing of a peace accord, while on the Palestinian track, Elyaqim Rubinstein and Faysal al-Husayni convened to work out the agenda for the current round of talks aimed at drafting a joint Israeli-Palestinian document. Our correspondent Ya'ir Stern reports from Washington:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Stern] Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich said in response to Christopher's suggestion that there is no point discussing an unhatched egg. It was decided in the Israeli-Syrian talks, however, to discuss in this round the security regime to be set up once peace reigns.

[Rabinovich] We started yesterday, and we will continue today to discuss the security regime. We entered that expression into the lexicon of the talks, but we will not devote the entire round to that issue. We are constantly talking about a triangle of peace, security, and territory, and we will not discuss security detached from the other two components. Anyway, the Syrians would not let us do so even if we had wanted to because its delegation constantly wants to be heard even if it does not listen.

[Stern] Syria, for its part, claims that while the Christopher proposal is not new, Israel will no longer have any excuse for opposing a total withdrawal from the Golan Heights since the Americans will constitute a buffer between the sides.

[Chief Syrian negotiator Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, in English] The meaning of this readiness by the United States is that Israel can no more use the pretext of security as a way of keeping or trying to keep any part of the Golan.

[Stern] On the negotiations with the Palestinians, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi went to London and left the baton with Faysal al-Husayni. Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, met with al-Husayni today to discuss the agenda for the current round. The Palestinians made public the outlines of the talks as they see them.

[Palestinian spokesman Hanan 'Ashrawi, in English] We told them we are willing to work on a declaration of principles and to form working groups as the need arises, and whatever mechanisms are required in order to achieve real progress.

[Stern] Israel has made it clear to the Palestinians that it is willing to discuss any subject, but that they have to give up any demand to discuss Jerusalem.

[Rubinstein] The aim is to try to advance the document of principles we are discussing, and this can be achieved if the other side, the Palestinians, wants to do so and is prepared to be realistic in its achievements by dealing with the actual issues, not Jerusalem and settlements, but the interim arrangements.

[Stern] The catcalls in the background come from a delegation representing settlers from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip who are demonstrating outside the State Department. They have brought gimmicks with them—propellers [recalling Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's recent remarks that if a settlement is reached on the Golan, settlers there can spin like propellers] and Neville Chamberlain-style black umbrellas.

The Israelis and Palestinians are therefore discussing the talks still to come. Both sides are trying to reach some sort of written agreement that will note their points of agreement. The Americans will exert pressure to reach an agreement because they have to show some sort of achievement in the current round. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1700 GMT on 16 June adds: "As far as the negotiations with Lebanon are concerned, Israel is seeking clarification on questions put yesterday regarding the military working groups proposed to settle security issues."]

Al-'Allaf: Withdrawal, Territory, Security Discussed

JN1606210193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, said that on the second day of the current round of talks, discussion mostly centered on the issues of withdrawal, territory, and security. Responding to reporters' questions after the meeting, he said the Israeli side tried to restrict today's discussion to security matters, but that the Syrian delegation clearly explained that it was possible to consider security affairs only in connection with territory. He said: We have to know which land we mean when we talk about security arrangements or guarantees.

Al-'Allaf stressed that the Israelis had been informed that without Israel's commitment to total withdrawal, there would be no room to deal with security arrangements and measures that can be accepted. He added: This kind of security arrangement is the specialty of working groups that can be formed only after reaching agreement on basic matters, the foremost of which is total withdrawal. He also said: The fifth article of the Syrian document pertaining to withdrawal will be discussed tomorrow, after we have agreed that security details cannot be discussed before agreeing on the main issues, including territory and withdrawal. He added that the

Syrian delegation expressed a readiness to return next week to discuss security issues only in connection with the issue of territory.

Rabinovich on Talks With Syria, U.S. Guarantees

TA1706080493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Telephone interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States and head of the delegation to the talks with Syria, by Sheli Yehimovich on 16 June—recorded]

[Text] [Yehimovich] We hear that without an Israeli commitment to a full withdrawal it will actually be impossible to discuss security arrangements; this is the condition posed by Syria. This actually takes us back to the same point we were at in the previous round of talks.

[Rabinovich] No, not exactly. It is not an objective fact that we will not be able to hold such discussions. At the moment, it is just a Syrian demand. The fact remains that today we talked about security arrangements. So even if this condition looks like an impregnable brick wall, cracks and apertures can still be found.

[Yehimovich] So what you are saying is that, on one hand, there is this Syrian statement, and, on the other hand, they are sitting and talking to us about a security regime.

[Rabinovich] They are discussing it on a certain level. In other words, there is a weak point in the Syrian position. On one hand, the Syrians are digging in their heels and trying to bring pressure to bear from any quarters available to them in a bid to extract from us a commitment to a full withdrawal, which they want very much to get. On the other hand, they want to pursue the process due to broader foreign policy considerations—first and foremost, their relations with the United States—but perhaps also because of their faith in the peace process itself. They also realize that they cannot come to Washington for three weeks and constantly say: I want to hear about a full withdrawal; I want to hear about a full withdrawal. Therefore, they must talk and give and receive signals on other issues as well.

[Yehimovich] What has been discussed with regard to the security regime? What specifics have actually been discussed, if the issue was indeed discussed at length?

[Rabinovich] The issue was discussed today. We presented a series of ideas and principles. Allow me to not go into the details, because our policy is not to publicize or leak details from the negotiating hall, to give the public....

[Yehimovich, interrupting] But details leak out. There is talk about early warning stations, troop reduction, and reciprocity of arrangements; these are the issues being mentioned here in Israel.

[Rabinovich] Well, one could say that what you are describing quite resembles reality. Without going into details, I think that the Israeli public is entitled to be informed about the trend of the talks, and these are the trends being discussed. These are issues that can be discussed without demarcating any lines. In other words, reciprocity, building confidence, and creating a buffer are principles that do not necessarily pertain to a specific area and can be discussed in the fashion we discussed them today.

[Yehimovich] Do the Syrians stand some sort of chance of extracting from us a more concrete statement about a full withdrawal or any withdrawal?

[Rabinovich] To date, we have been discussing withdrawal in an abstract fashion. We have been telling the Syrians that we will not define the dimensions, depth, or extent of the withdrawal until we are satisfied on the aforementioned issues. It is not a question of interpretation or specificity but of our willingness to discuss the dimension and depth of a possible withdrawal.

[Yehimovich] When we talk about those security guarantees on the Golan Heights—and there is a lot of talk about it here—what does it mean?

[Rabinovich] At this point, reference is to general points. When the U.S. secretary of state talked about a possible U.S. willingness to guarantee, to be some sort of signatory to the arrangement with Syria in general and to the security arrangements in particular, he said that the United States would be prepared to consider the matter. In other words, he was making a very embryonic, conditional, and hesitant assertion, and I think that at this point we should not build castles in the air based on such an assertion. Also, the extent of progress made so far in the talks does not yet justify going into detailed deliberations.

[Yehimovich] At the opening ceremony of the MAPAM [United Workers Party] convention yesterday, President Ezer Weizman—a man whose experience with peace talks cannot be dismissed—said that there is no substitute to personal talks between leaders and that what must actually occur now is a meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and al-Asad. He suggested, or rather stated quite unequivocally, that only such a meeting will yield a real breakthrough. Do you subscribe to this notion?

[Rabinovich] After quite a few months of conducting negotiations with the Syrians, I believe I can safely say that we miss the involvement of the top Syrian level in the direct negotiations with us.

[Yehimovich] Professor Rabinovich, thank you very much. Good night to you, and good morning to us.

Al-Husayni Says Jerusalem Issue Key to Solution

TA1706061093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Text] Today's newspaper headlines mainly deal with the negotiations with the Syrian delegation, but our own headline pertains to the Palestinian track and comes from Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation, who says: There must be two capitals in Jerusalem. If each side insists on claiming it entirely for itself, no progress will be made.

Indeed, no progress was made even after the second day of talks with the Palestinian delegation. Faysal al-Husayni was invited last night, on his own, to talks at the State Department in what is so far an unsuccessful bid to persuade the Palestinians to soften their position on the question of the autonomy document. Razi Barqay, our special envoy to Washington, spoke with him after his meetings with the Americans, and here is his report:

[Begin recording] [Barqay] The remarks you are about to hear from Faysal al-Husayni constitute the crux of the problem and the issue that has been holding up the signing of a joint document of principles. I asked him this morning: What is the sense in insisting on mentioning Jerusalem in the document, seeing that Jerusalem is such a sensitive issue for both sides? Excluding Jerusalem would mean coming to terms with the fact that Greater Jerusalem is part of Israel, he replied.

[Al-Husayni, in English] I believe that we must keep the possibility that Jerusalem can be an open city with two capitals. If we can reach to such a matter—that it is an open city with two capitals with a certain internal organization, that we can keep a sort of open relation between the two capitals—we can reach to a conclusion and to a solution. But if we went on, each one saying no, all Jerusalem is mine and the other part have nothing in Jerusalem, that will not work.

I believe everyone—the Israelis, we, the Americans—are in need of a sort of progress in this round. But, in the same time, we would like to have a real progress, some progress which can help a real comprehensive peace, and we hope that the Israelis will act in a certain way that we will see some developments, not only in the table for decisions but also on the ground.

[Barqay] The Israelis must contribute their share, not just around the negotiating table but also in the field, al-Husayni said. He was primarily referring to the questions of settlements and human rights in the territories. Later in his talk with me, he talked about his disappointment with the American position—they are not neutral, he said—and about the urgent need to attain something in this round or else precious time will have been wasted.

If there is a Palestinian red line, however, it can be phrased thus: The jurisdiction of the autonomy must encompass all the territories, including East Jerusalem. [end recording]

Reacting to al-Husayni's remarks to Qol Yisra'el, chief Israeli delegate Elyaqim Rubinstein said that the position of the government, as well as that of the Israeli public at large, is that united Jerusalem is in Israel's hands and will remain under Israeli sovereignty.

Our correspondent adds that the Americans are now looking for a compromise formulation on the question of Jerusalem that will accommodate both sides.

Jordan's Delegate: Balance Needed Between Tracks

JN1606200193 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, Jordan's ambassador in Washington and head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace negotiations, has said the Jordanian side has emphasized Jordan's constant position toward the peace process, especially its terms of reference represented in Security Council Resolutions No. 242 and 338, the letter of invitation to the Madrid conference, the principle of retuning Arab land for peace, and the national and political rights of the Palestinian people.

In a statement to the Jordanian news agency correspondent in Washington commenting on the first session of the 10th round, which began yesterday, Dr. al-Tarawinah said the Jordanian side stresses and proves this position along with the Arab brothers and always insists on repeating it.

He added that the mode of action on the Jordanian track that was followed in the ninth round has not been changed. He said there was no discussion of the Jordanian agenda, which is still under study by the Jordanian Government. He pointed out that several other issues are being discussed as part of informal, temporary working groups.

He added that the first session of negotiations was preliminary and dealt with formalities, noting that things will continue within the informal working groups.

He also said that the Jordanian track is governed by a constant Jordanian position toward the question of Arab comprehensiveness. We are keen on balance with other Arab tracks. There is a high degree of Arab coordination, he said, noting a coordination meeting was held among Arab parties to the peace talks recently in Washington. The parties showed full interaction through constant contacts at the level of chief delegates and the daily meetings of the Arab coordination committee.

He affirmed that Jordan is concerned about keeping a balance between the various Arab tracks. He said the Palestinian track is an independent track based on a belief in the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. The Palestinians will receive our full support in their endeavor to reach just, peaceful, and comprehensive solutions, he said.

He added that the Arab side considers the current negotiations as part of the 10th round and believes that continuing negotiations is premature, pointing out that the Arab side will keep in touch with the cosponsors of the conference to agree on the duration of the 10th round, taking into consideration the full flexibility of the Arab side—in the event of substantive progress in the negotiations—to pursue the talks for a longer period.

Lebanese Delegation Head on Israeli Position

NC1706064293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Text] An Israeli obstacle emerged during yesterday's session of the 10th round of bilateral negotiations on the Lebanese track, while no progress was reported on the Syrian, Palestinian, and Jordanian tracks.

Israel refused to regard Resolution 425 as a basis for the start of negotiations and thus has taken the process to the starting point. Following yesterday's meeting, Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, said that there is serious difficulty between the two delegations having to do with the essential issue. He added: Israel has to recognize that it is an occupying force. Until the time comes that this is recognized, it will be very difficult to narrow the gap. He went on to say: The Israelis describe their occupation as a presence and use security requirements as justification. This is their stand. But in the view of Lebanese public opinion, the people in the region, and the international community, Israel is an occupying state and Resolution 425 demands an immediate Israeli withdrawal. For Israel to describe its occupation as a deployment, a redeployment, or a presence reflects its thinking. The requirements for achieving progress will remain slow until this position changes. He added that he decided to make this statement so that everyone becomes aware of the kind of differences the Lebanese delegation is facing. But he stressed that it is possible to overcome the differences. He also reiterated that Lebanon is committed to the peace process.

Lubrani: Discussion on 425 Futile Without Framework

TA1706081693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Interview with Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with Lebanon, by Washington correspondent Arye Golan on 16 June—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Uri Lubrani, the negotiations on all the tracks seem to be stuck. Is the situation any different on the Israeli-Lebanese track?

[Lubrani] No, unfortunately it is not. The situation is similar to that of the other tracks, although the Lebanese track has its own characteristics. Once again today we discussed our proposal to set up a military working group. We realized that we would have to get into the basic issues once again, and we proceeded to reiterate that we have no territorial claims on Lebanon and do not claim its mineral resources and that we only want one thing: to be sure that the future security arrangements between us and Lebanon will be of such a nature that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will not have go in and out of Lebanon and that will ensure us the security we need along the border. All this can happen only within the framework of a peace agreement. As long as such a framework does not exist, we will continue to maintain our current deployment. Any attempt by the Lebanese to discuss the implementation of UN Resolution 425 will be futile as far as we are concerned.

[Golan] Is there any chance whatsoever of ultimately setting up the military working group in order to somewhat advance the negotiations?

[Lubrani] If a military working group is established, I will consider it a great success. I do not want to play down the chances of such an achievement being made in this round of talks. I am usually an optimistic person. We will do whatever we can to bring about such an achievement, but there is no certainty that we will succeed.

[Golan] So, what are you going to do here for three weeks?

[Lubrani] We will continue to do whatever we can in order to find a way to make progress in the talks. Although this does not apply only to the Lebanese track, this track is particularly difficult, because what happens in it largely hinges on what happens on the Syrian track. Nevertheless, we can try to cope with such constraints. We will try to do our best, and I hope we will achieve something.

[Golan] The Americans have been displaying slightly more involvement in the talks. Can this help?

[Lubrani] I think that more U.S. involvement can help. Although at this point it is keeping a very low profile, this is based on the desire to be an honest broker toward both sides, and the involvement may very well increase as this round of talks progresses. I think this would only be for the best.

[Golan] Thank you very much.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Peace Talks, Arab Boycott, Gaza First

NC1606121093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jun (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has called on the U.S. Administration to be a full partner and a fair and neutral mediator in the Arab-Israeli negotiations.

In a statement to AL-MUSAWWAR to be published Friday [18 June], 'Arafat said the Palestinians are still demanding that the United States clarify its position on

certain issues, especially the status of Jerusalem, commitment to the terms of reference of the peace process, and the deportees.

'Arafat warned that failure to achieve a just and comprehensive peace taking into consideration the rights of the Arab nation and the Palestinian people and implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338—which means Israel's withdrawal from all occupied territories, including holy Jerusalem—will lead the region to "complete chaos, Balkanization, and a flood that sweeps everyone away."

It must be understood, the Palestinian president said, that peace is not only a Palestinian or Arab demand, but also an Israeli, European, and U.S. demand. Noting that the region contains the world's largest strategic oil reserves, 'Arafat explained that peace in the Middle East is very important for the interests of the United States and Europe.

The Palestinian president stressed that the intifadah and the resistance will continue and that no one can eliminate the Palestinian cause.

He rejected lifting the boycott against Israel and demanded that it continue until a comprehensive peace involving all sides is signed.

He said the continuation of the boycott has made Israel try to get it lifted and to persuade the United States to pressure some Arab sides into canceling it.

'Arafat stressed that Egypt is playing the role of a full partner, not a mediator, in the peace process. He noted that Egypt is offering initiatives and playing a constructive role.

He emphasized that the Arab parties to the peace talks agree that there should be no separate deals with Israel and that the solution must be comprehensive, involving all tracks of negotiations. He said Israel seeks to divide Arab ranks through separate solutions.

The Palestinian president said Israel is trying to avoid the basic issues in the negotiations, especially on the Palestinian track, where nothing significant has been achieved although 20 months have elapsed since the negotiations started.

'Arafat explained that the entire period after the year during which the negotiations were scheduled to end will be deducted from the two-year interim stage set to prepare for talks on the final status.

'Arafat said there is no disagreement with Washington concerning the connection between autonomy [al-hukm al-dhati] and the final status, and adherence to the terms of reference—namely, Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace.

Time has proven, 'Arafat said, that the slogans of the Israeli Labor Party have been no different than those raised by the Likud. Although expressions changed, the essence remained the same at the peace negotiations, he said.

On Israel's position that an agreement on Gaza can be reached first, 'Arafat said the solution should be within the framework of the indivisible unity of the Palestinian Arab territory. If Israel wants to leave any piece of the occupied territory, it should hand it over to the United Nations, he said.

'Arafat Reviews Peace Process With Russia's Kozyrev

LD1706012393 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] yesterday met Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in the presence of Brother Abu-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO political department. During the meeting there was a comprehensive review of the Middle East peace process and of the bilateral negotiations, the 10th round of which is being held in Washington, in addition to a review of the Palestinian, Arab, and Israeli point of views vis-a-vis the peace process, particularly since Kozyrev had met with [Israeli Deputy Prime Minister] Shim'on Peres. The Russian foreign minister informed Brother Abu-'Ammar of the Russian stand toward the peace process and the efforts being exerted to push the peace process forward in the view of the fact that Russia is one of the two sponsors of the peace conference.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar reviewed the obstacles put by Israel to block the peace process and the bilateral negotiations and its refusal to be committed to the terms of reference agreed upon as a basis for this process, in addition to the repressive measures and inhumane practices the Israeli occupation authorities are carrying out in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and the town of Jerusalem, in particular the isolation of the territories and of the town of Jerusalem, the constant Israeli attacks on Muslim and Christian holy places, the continued establishment of settlements, and land confiscation.

Brother Abu-'Ammar thanked the Russian minister for the stands of the Russian Federation, stressing the importance of the continuation of the Russian-Palestinian coordination and cooperation through the joint Russian-Palestinian committee.

Abu-'Ammar also conveyed to the Russian minister a special greeting to President Boris Yeltsin and thanks for these Russian efforts to push the peace process forward.

The Russian foreign minister also stressed the importance of the continuation of Russian-Palestinian contacts and coordination, especially at this juncture. He addressed an invitation to Brothers Abu-Lutf and Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] to visit the Russian Federation urgently.

PLO Official on Issues of 10th Round of Talks

LD1706050093 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO information department, said in Tunis yesterday that the 10th round of talks takes place under new circumstances being witnessed in the occupied territories, among which in particular is the isolation of Jerusalem from these territories and the continuation of the economic siege around the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Brother Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh emphasized the will of the Palestinians to reach a declaration of joint principles with the Israelis on practical and implementable measures. He said that no new proposal has come from the American side to help bridge the gap existing between Palestinians and Israelis. He said the joint declaration should include the withdrawal and redeployment of the Israeli troops and a transfer of power in accordance to a time table to the interim Palestinian government.

'Abd-Radduh added that the main issue remains Israel's recognition of Resolution 242 and the need for the powers of the interim government to include all the lands occupied since 1967. He said we will not agree to discuss the issue of Gaza separately from the other Palestinian lands, adding that the step of withdrawing from Gaza should be accompanied by another one in the West Bank.

Paper: Rabin's Stands Cast Shadow on Talks

TA1606151093 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 16 Jun 93 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "A Hard-Line Israeli Stance With Start of Each Round"]

[Excerpt] On the eve of the convocation of the 10th round of Arab-Israeli talks in Washington, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin came out with hard-line stands, pledging not to give up all the Golan Heights to Syria or make gestures to the Palestinians.

Rabin made those remarks before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. He said with utmost clarity: "Even if Syria agrees to full peace, Israel will not agree to return all the Golan Heights, which it occupied in 1967." Moreover, Rabin declared before the committee that he had explained to the Syrians that they would not get all of the Golan in return for peace. Rabin's statements on the eve of the resumption of contacts and preparatory meetings, which had been intended to overcome the obstacles preventing the negotiating parties from achieving results that would open the way to the possibility of reaching peaceful settlements, cast a dark shadow on the climate of those meetings and generated a feeling of pessimism over the possibility of realizing a new breakthrough in the negotiations.

Rabin's statements provoked a climate of disappointment and reduced the chances of achieving any progress in this round, making it likely to end just as the first nine rounds ended. Worse than this was Rabin's remark that Israel was not ready to make gestures because the period of confidence-building measures is over. Thus, intentionally or not, Rabin forgot the conditions that the Palestinians are experiencing, whether as a consequence of deportation, the military siege imposed by the authorities on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, or the isolation of Jerusalem from the occupied territories. How can Rabin say that he refuses to make gestures to the Palestinians?

The other misleading remark by Rabin was that "the Palestinians are telling Israel: Give us the keys and go home." In fact, the Palestinians have accepted the transitional stage and self-rule for a specific period. They are not asking for the keys, but they want an Israeli commitment as well as U.S. and international guarantees that they will get the keys at the end of the transitional stage. This is not a new demand but one of the conditions contained in the letter of invitation to the Madrid peace conference 20 months ago.

Hence, it is difficult to speculate on whether substantive progress will be made in the 10th round of talks, since there has been no change in the hard-line Israeli stance, which has remained so since the first round of negotiations.

It has become certain that no progress or breakthrough will be made in the talks without active U.S. intervention, foremost of all by upgrading the level of representation in the talks. The United States is the sponsor of the peace conference and has undertaken to play the role of full partner in this process. In addition to a moral commitment, there is a principled commitment which U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced upon the ninth round's convocation in April. If the U.S. Administration is really interested in the talks' success, it should fulfill its promises and pursue certain policies during this round that affirm the concept of full U.S. participation. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia Reportedly Refuses To Host al-Husayni

TA1606161293 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] A Palestinian source said in Jerusalem that Saudi Arabia refused to receive Faysal al-Husayni during his recent tour of the Gulf region. The source added that Qatar and the United Arab Emirates did not commit themselves to resume financial aid to the PLO, but promised al-Husayni that they would reconsider the matter. The source cited al-Husayni as saying that during his Gulf tour he discussed Arab and Palestinian policies and the need to revive Arab solidarity.

PNC Urges Reversal of Kuwait Death Sentences

JN1606174693 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] The Palestine National Council [PNC] today appealed to Arab, world, and humanitarian bodies to

exert maximum efforts with the competent Kuwaiti authorities to rescind the unjust death sentences passed on 10 Palestinians and Jordanians.

A statement issued by the PNC said: While rejecting and denouncing these unfair sentences, the PNC hopes Kuwaiti officials will refrain from carrying out these unfair sentences and defer to human rights and justice, staying away from injustice and revenge.

Somalia Events Said To Show U.S. Double Standards

PM1606110693 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 14 Jun 93 p 11

[Editorial: "Cheap U.S. Victory in Somalia"]

[Text] For peacekeeping forces in Somalia to open fire on starving demonstrators in the center of Mogadishu, killing more than 20 of them, is unbelievable and not based on any international legitimacy, except perhaps the law of the jungle and hatred.

Tens of millions of people throughout the world saw the Pakistani soldiers opening fire—with intent to kill—on a group of women, children, and youths who were "peacefully" expressing their protest at the military operation against Somali positions. If the demonstrators had been armed, we would have found an explanation for this inhumane action. If they had attacked the international forces, we would have said that the shooting was in self-defense. But the demonstrators were not armed, nor were they about to attack the international forces.

The only explanation for this savage action is that the UN Pakistani forces wanted to avenge the killing of 21 of their soldiers in an attack by a militia. They found no one except the unarmed demonstrators on whom to take revenge. The outcome was an ugly massacre that reveals how morals and values have deteriorated at the beginning of the new world order era under the United States.

Peacekeeping forces are supposed to display self-restraint and dissociate themselves from hatred. This is because their mission is primarily humanitarian and designed to maintain peace and protect lives, not to be a danger to peace or to practice armed terrorism against the innocent.

The strange thing is that international emergency forces in other parts of the world do not do the same thing. We have not heard of British, Egyptian, or U.S. forces in Yugoslavia firing a single shot on the Serbs' positions, although the Serbs killed international soldiers in broad daylight.

An even stranger thing is that Israeli forces have on more than one occasion over the past three years attacked positions belonging to the Iranian forces operating in southern Lebanon among the international emergency forces, killing several soldiers, but we have not heard of U.S. forces arranging a military campaign against the Israeli forces or demanding the handing over of those responsible for this crime. But the United States is dispatching its Marines and all types of aircraft to bombard Farah Aidid's position, arrest his supporters, and indeed to seek to arrest him and try him as a war criminal.

We do not want these words to be understood to mean that we are defending General Aidid or his supporters' crime, that is, opening fire on the international emergency forces. This is because any attack on these forces is an attack on the United Nations and international legitimacy as a whole. But we are against double standards in dealing with war criminals, who are daily killing the forces of international legitimacy in Bosnia and Palestine.

Any U.S. victory in Somalia over Aidid's forces is a cheap victory, and any revenge by the Pakistani forces at the expense of innocent lives is a disgrace to the United Nations, its charter, and institutions.

If the United States cares about international law and wants to punish war criminals, it must not exercise this care against the starving and the weak in Somalia only, but also against the strong whom it supplies with arms, money, and all means of power to open fire on children in the Gaza Strip, Rafah, southern Lebanon, and the villages and towns of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Algeria

Gendarmerie Command Reports Magistrate Killed 14 Jun

LD1606194793 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Excerpts] It has been learned from the National Gendarmerie Command that the head of the Kolea Court in the province of Tipaza Bekkai Mahfoud—alias Kemal—was assassinated last Monday night [14 June] at 2100 hours near his house. [passage omitted] The source pointed out that the victim died when fired on by unknown persons using sawed-off shotguns. [passage omitted] The deceased had five children.

Police Kill 'Terrorists' After Attack on Patrol

LD1606200593 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] At 1530 today, 16 June, a police patrol came under fire in the Merdja district of Baraki from passengers in a Volkswagen. The immediate reaction of the patrol led to the death of two dangerous terrorists—(Zekewi Brahim), the right-hand man of (Layada Abdelhak), and (Kheda Mohammed)—who carried out several assassinations of security personnel. A third terrorist managed to escape. When the police opened fire, the vehicle's fuel tank was hit, causing it to explode. Police captured a Kalashnikov machine gun.

Two policemen were seriously injured.

Oran Court Jails Members of 'Terrorist' Network

LD1706084693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Excerpts] The considerable activities that the security forces have carried out over the past hours resulted in the killing and apprehending of numerous terrorists in the homeland's provinces. The details are with Hizia Heida.

[Heida] [passage omitted] The special court of Oran yesterday passed a five-year prison sentence on Cehnouf Meradji, former imam in Rilizane, and a three-year sentence on his son, Taha. As for Abed Mohamed and Aoun Mohamed, they were sentenced to two years in prison. The accused were arrested in February 1992 in Oran and are members of a terrorist network that was planning to carry out assassination operations against policemen.

The security forces of Jijel apprehended a a network in the making that includes 11 terrorists who appeared yesterday before the public prosecution, which ordered them to be put in preventive detention on charges of collecting money to support an armed terrorist organization and destroying public property.

Higher State Council Evaluates National Dialogue

LD1606234193 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] The Higher State Council met today under the chairmanship of Ali Kafi to evaluate the third phase of the national dialogue. In accordance with the agreement reached with the partners in the dialogue, a preliminary project relating to the transitional phase will be submitted to them soon so that it can be studied and enriched prior to the submission of the final project to the national gathering, the convening date of which will be determined at the appropriate time.

Government Endorses Mechanisms To Promote Investment

LD1706085893 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The Council of Government was convened today under the chairmanship of the head of government, Belaid Abdesselam. The work of the council today was characterized by its economic nature with focus on investment and the conditions that would ensure its promotion and facilitation, as we learn from our colleague Zahia.

[Zahia] Indeed Ahmed, ladies and gentlemen, investment was the main focus of the council of government's meeting this Wednesday [16 June]. Although there were other points that were no less important, including the celebrations to mark the independence and youth days and the progress of the baccalaureate exams of 1993.

Regarding the first point, the council has endorsed a preliminary draft of a legislative bill pertaining to the promotion of investment. The bill, which comes within the general framework of the government's plan, consolidates the principle of the freedom of investment and grants financial, taxation and excise concessions.

[Announcer] Zahia, is it possible to know what are the desired objectives of this bill?

[Zahia] Yes, initially, it aims at establishing relations of trust with investors through assurances, facilities, and concessions granted by the state and searching for economic integration. No distinction will be made between residents and nonresidents, with nonresidents having the freedom to transfer their invested capital and profits. There will be special incentive concessions for investments that will respond to regional requirements and the priorities of sectors and technology. In addition to the general law, three special systems have been laid down pertaining to regions concerned with the promotion of sectors that are given priority and the free zones.

To facilitate and simplify methods of investment, a single bureau will be set up in the framework of an agency for the promotion and consolidation of investment. This will be the party that will negotiate with investors.

[Announcer] Zahia, would it be possible to know what will be the duties of this agency which will facilitate these investment?

[Zahia] Naturally, the agency will establish relations with public authorities on behalf of investors. The current preliminary draft defines the structures through which requests to the agency will be made. This measure will be followed soon by the establishment of a free market for hard currencies, outside the organized market. This free market will be financed by the total of export revenues except for the fuel sector, and it will be in addition to capital brought in by the state within its capabilities, within the framework of which economic investors could obtain the required currency for their various activities.

The council of government also ratified two financial processes; the first concerns Algeria's contribution to raising the capital of the Islamic Bank and the other concerns an agreement with the African Fund for Economic and Social Development. The council of government also decided to extend the term of the executive councils of contribution funds, which have lapsed, until a new system of managing the public economic sector is in place. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Musa Sends Message to UN Security Council on Hala'ib

NC1606140393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] United Nations, 15 Jun (MENA)—Egypt has asserted its inalienable sovereignty over the Hala'ib area on legal, historical, and practical grounds. It said the deployment of border guard forces along the entire length of the Egyptian border is normal, falling within Egypt's role of exercising its sovereignty over its territories. It added that national security requirements necessitated the deployment, because the country is confronting terrorist elements that are escalating their activity and penetrating the border, which threatens Hala'ib's peace and security.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa addressed his message to the UN Security Council president on 30 May, and it was released at UN headquarters today as an official Security Council document.

In the message, 'Amr Musa responded to the Sudanese foreign minister's 18 May message to the Security Council on Hala'ib. Musa announced that the rationale behind the series of Sudanese messages to the Security Council's president—claiming the Hala'ib triangle is no longer Egyptian, but Sudanese territory—rests on erroneous concepts and does not properly address historical and legal rights.

Musa added that the Sudanese message contained claims exposing the Sudanese Government's intention to transform the limited administrative tasks Egypt assigned it in the area into a permanent occupation of territory that legally and historically belongs to Egypt.

'Amr Musa's message asserted that Egyptian administrative decisions allowing Sudan to administer some areas on Egypt's international border north of the 22d parallel—with the aim of providing facilities to tribes living on both sides of the border—cannot be deemed an amendment to the 1899 Agreement, which is the sole document delineating the international Egyptian-Sudanese border.

He pointed out that those decisions were purely administrative, made for humanitarian reasons, and as such do not constitute a transfer of sovereignty or proof of any acquired rights to that area, which will remain permanently and without interruption, under Egyptian sovereignty.

The Egyptian document describes as unfounded Sudan's claims, included in its message to the Security Council, that the Egyptian authorities have carried out "escalatory measures" and sent warnings to the Sudanese military authorities. The document says the facts show Egypt seeks further consultation between the military authorities of both countries with the aim of avoiding an escalation on the border.

The Egyptian document further asserts that it is clear the Sudanese Government is seeking, via its repeated messages to the Security Council, to suggest there is an abnormal situation in the border area. The document notes that the Sudanese Government intentionally distorts the facts, provokes incidents, and makes threats to conceal the deteriorating conditions inside its own country, which are a consequence of the Sudanese regime's repressive measures against the fraternal Sudanese people. The document adds that these repressive measures are accompanied by a policy of supporting terrorism and an attempt to interfere in other countries' internal affairs with the help of suspect circles, something Egypt finds unacceptable.

The document reiterates Egypt's earnest wish, despite Sudan's constant excesses, to settle any dispute with Sudan in the context of the joint committee formed for this purpose, considering the historical bonds of amity between the two fraternal nations, bilateral ties, the rules of good neighborliness, and the principle of nonintervention in other countries' affairs.

Musa Leads Delegation at Human Rights Conference

Meets With Christopher, Others

NC1406061793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 14 Jun 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will meet U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Vienna this afternoon. Musa said the meeting will discuss developments in the peace process and the obstacles in its way.

Relations between Egypt and the United States will also be discussed. The meeting will be part of the foreign minister's contacts on the sidelines of the international conference on human rights, which opens today.

Tomorrow, Musa will meet the Irish deputy prime minister and foreign minister and Jordan's crown prince. He is scheduled to deliver Egypt's speech to the conference tomorrow.

Divisions Among Countries Reported

NC1606211493 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo this evening after leading the Egyptian delegation to the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights, which opened the day before yesterday in Vienna and will last until 25 June.

Political observers in Vienna report that increasing divisions among the countries participating mean the conference has failed to reach any positive results or make progress on the items on its agenda. The divisions center on establishing new mechanisms for the United Nations and the European states' objection to considering the flagrant violations of human rights against the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a crime against humanity.

MENA has reported that the Western states are trying to impose rigid patterns and standards for human rights, while the developing nations insist there should be no rigid or unified criterion in view of global multicultural diversity. The conference continues its meetings in Vienna in an attempt to reach a common ground among the participants.

Sidqi Details Mubarak Meeting With Economic Group

NC1606141993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1314 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jun (MENA)—During a meeting with the Economic Group today, President Husni Mubarak reviewed developments in the economic reform program and negotiations with the IMF and World Bank.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said dialogue with President Mubarak at the meeting showed the economic reform program is progressing fast and its positive results, shown in the continuing steady rate of exchange and low inflation rates, are such that they are creating the atmosphere to launch a national economy, investment, and employment program in the next stage.

Sidqi said Mubarak reviewed the Egyptian Government's negotiations with the World Bank and IMF, the government's differences with which are confined to slight details concerning negotiations.

Dr. Sidqi said Mubarak agreed with the group's proposal to send a delegation to end the negotiations with the two international organizations within four days.

President Mubarak also agreed that a group member should travel to Paris in the next few hours to brief creditor countries on Egypt's position to pave the way for Egypt to secure another reduction in its foreign debt, estimated at 15 percent, approximately $3 billion.

President Mubarak's meeting with the Economic Group lasted two hours.

Al-Alfi Renews Determination To Face Outlaws

NC1606122193 Cairo MENA in English 1014 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, June 16 (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi today said that his ministry is determined to adamantly face any illegal actions whatever the sacrifices and burdens might be.

During a meeting with members of the Egyptian-French businessmen society before their departure for France for talks with their French counterparts, he said that the objectives of the outlaws are well known to the security bodies.

Security measures have been tightened all over the country within the context of a new security strategy, he said.

The foreign media magnify events in Egypt, the interior minister said. They give the impression that the security situation inside the country is difficult, he said.

The ministry's policy aim at realising stability to attract foreign investments to the country and help implementing the government's economic reform programmes, al-Alfi said.

He highlighted the people's cooperation with the security bodies.

Attempt To Set Fire to Aswan Railway Station Foiled

NC1706064793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0617 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jun (MENA)—Two guards at the Aswan railway station foiled a terrorist attempt last night in which two terrorists tried to set fire to an empty train used for carrying diesel oil that was parked in the station's yard. The two guards captured one of the terrorists while the other fled.

This was stated by a responsible Interior Ministry security source. It said: While soldier Khalaf Jad al-Mawla and conscript Khayri Lutfi Dakruri were on guard duty at midnight in the Aswan railway station, they saw two people trying to set fire to a train. They escaped, but the

two soldiers chased them and captured one of them. He is Muhammad Lashin Mahmud from the village of al-Hakrub in Aswan.

Defendant Muhammad Lashin Mahmud admitted that a person called Ahmad Abu-'Ala asked him and the fugitive defendant to set fire to the train used to carry diesel oil in return for 500 pounds for himself and 1,000 pounds for the fugitive defendant.

The Higher State Prosecution Office has been informed so as to start its investigations while the security organs are now searching for the other suspects.

The source added that as soon as he was informed about the incident, Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi issued an order giving al-Mawla an exceptional promotion and a 1,000-pound cash award and a 200-pound award to Dakruri in appreciation for their courage and for foiling this attempt, which could have resulted in a catastrophe in the Aswan railway station.

Al-Jihad Group Contacts African Fundamentalists

NC1706092193 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 14 Jun 93 p 47

[Unattributed report from the "To and From Egypt" page]

[Text] The investigations that the Higher State Prosecution Office is conducting with elements of the "Returnees From Afghanistan" organization have revealed that the al-Jihad Organization is holding contacts with African fundamentalists to train them in terrorism operations against the existing African regimes and governments by benefiting from the expertise of some "Egyptian Afghans."

The defendants confessed that two of the organization's leaders—Usamah 'Abd-al-Qadir Muhammad and Isma'il Nasr-al-Din—have had direct contacts with some African fundamentalist organizations in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Senegal, and Eritrea to train and urge them to act against these countries' regimes and also to exploit some of their capitals, particularly Nairobi, for facilitating the return of the "Egyptian Afghans" from Peshawar to Sudan.

The security organs had arrested Isma'il Nasr-al-Din and Usamah 'Abd-al-Qadir following the return of the first one from Sudan and the second from Afghanistan. Maps of some important buildings, government facilities, police stations, and security directorates were found with them.

Libya

Acting Foreign Secretary Receives Europeans

LD1706091293 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] The brother acting secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation met this evening with the European parliamentarian delegation that is currently visiting to the Great Jamahiriyah. The delegation is being led by Henri Saby, chairman of the European Parliament Committee on Development and Cooperation. At the meeting, the head of the European Parliament affirmed his understanding of the Great Jamahiriyah's stance on the crisis between itself and Western countries. He said: Personally, I would not accept that the Security Council should replace the International Court of Justice when dealing with legal problems and conflicts between countries. He added that the European Parliament has already adopted, at a special session, a report that supports the restructuring of the whole United Nations, and he pointed out: We are living in a world where there is only one superpower. People will not accept this and will not accept the hegemony of one country over the destiny of the world. The time has come to draw up a new international order, he added.

The head of the European delegation pointed out the need to replace the international monetary and economic systems because people are no longer able to cope with such an oppressive European economic system. The chairman of the European Parliament Committee on Cooperation and Development asserted that the capitalist system has reached the point of explosion at all levels, pointing out that he will tell the European Parliament the truth about the stance of the Great Jamahiriyah and will tell the truth to the European public, which does not have a clear idea about the Great Jamahiriyah.

At the beginning of the meeting, the brother acting secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation welcomed the chairman of the European Parliament Committee on Development and Cooperation before pointing out: We are looking forward to strong cooperation between the the Secretariat of the General People's Congress and the Maghreban Consultative Council, on one hand, and the European Parliament, on the other. The brother secretary pointed out the damages sustained by the Libyan Arab people as a result of the unjust mandatory sanctions that have been imposed in implementation of the the unjust Resolution 748, asserting that hundreds of the sons of the Libyan Arab people have died in road accidents when heading for airports [in Tunisia and Egypt]. The brother secretary reiterated that the Libyan Arab people was a peaceful people trying to develop itself in a bid to overcome backwardness. It has put all its resources in this direction, he added.

Sudan

Commentary Urges Somalia To Unite, Resist 'Farce'

EA1606103593 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Jun 93

["Political commentary"]

[Text] The Arab and Islamic People's Congress has condemned what it described in a statement as the criminal and malicious attack by the U.S. Air Force on Mogadishu. The congress viewed the attack as constituting a redoubling of the tragedy of the Somali people and a destruction of the structures of that country.

The reality of the situation is that anyone who has been following the developing situation in Somalia will certainly be seized by astonishment and surprise after the return of the U.S. forces, which cover themselves with the mantle of international legitimacy and which have become both a contestant and judge at the same time. They are inflicting on the Somali people the maximum punishment to implement the hurried and stupid judgment of the UN Security Council, whose proceedings were not based on any logic except that of violence and the use of a big stick.

[Words indistinct] bound by judgments of the international organization under the vaunted new world order. This happens to the Somali people and other peoples who have refused to pawn their decisions and affairs to the masters of the new world. We also see other vague expressions of castigation, condemnation, and disapproval, and other resolutions issued against the Serb aggressors and the state of the Zionist entity. What a new world order!

It is true that the killing of more than 20 Pakistani soldiers of the UN forces is regrettable and requires measures to ensure that such an incident is not repeated. However, such measures should not exceed the application of all investigative methods followed by the holding of a fair trial in accordance with the law and the principles of justice.

The fact is, the use of repression and random bombing against unarmed Somali citizens has made things worse and has led to a further complication of the situation in Somalia. For the UN forces to allow themselves to get bogged down in the Somali quagmire with their heavy weapons is indicative of the UN's direct involvement in the fighting. Consequently, it is now a self-sustaining faction and one of the warring factions.

This involvement also confirms the failure of the United Nations and the Security Council in their task in Somalia, a task that began under the pretext of restoring peace, stability, and state authority to that country. This is the task that the United Nations called Restore Hope, but it has now destroyed the little hope left that had emerged following the recent rapprochement. This small bit of hope could have led to a final settlement and put an end to the fighting in Somalia.

The international community is required today, not tomorrow, to put an end to the farce now going on in the Horn of Africa through the United Nations in the eyes of the whole world. The free and independent peoples in Africa, Asia, and Latin America must unite and coordinate their efforts so that peace and justice prevail. They must stand strongly against the policies of terrorism, humiliation, and fear that are being practiced by the world's big powers against weaker peoples, with the approval of the United Nations.

We in Sudan support the call of the Arab and Islamic People's Congress to the Government of Pakistan and the governments of other countries taking part in peacekeeping in Somalia to withdraw their forces immediately, following the major distortion of the task of these forces.

We call on the Arab and Islamic People's Congress, as represented by its general secretariat and its specialized agencies, to use its moral and material resources to accomplish the humanitarian efforts that it has begun in order to save the Muslim and peaceful people of Somalia from their present suffering, after confirmation of the fact that the international community, as represented by the United Nations, has failed to bring an end to that painful human tragedy.

Until the foreign conspiracy is destroyed in its cradle, we also appeal to the Somali people to deny the infiltrators and schemers any opportunity by abandoning all the causes of disunity and division. We appeal to them to come together and unite so that peace and stability prevail in all parts of their country and Somalia regains its former position of a free state enjoying sovereignty and security. Success comes from God.

Tunisia

Niger's President Ousmane Arrives for 2-Day Visit

Met by Ben Ali at Airport

LD1506202293 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Niger's President Mohamane Ousmane arrived in Tunisia at 1945 this evening. He has come on a two-day working and friendship visit at the invitation of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who received him at Tunis-Carthage International Airport.

Reviews Relations With Counterpart

LD1606213393 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this afternoon at Carthage Palace held talks with Niger President

Mahamane Ousmane. The talks dealt with bilateral relations and current African and international issues.

An official spokesman for the Presidency said the presidents reviewed the deep-rooted, fraternal, friendly, and cooperative relations between the two countries and highlighted the prospects available for developing these relations in all spheres.

The spokesman added that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali stressed the care with which Tunisia looks after its relations with African countries. He said that it spares no efforts to promote anything that could contribute to the strengthening of the ties of fraternity and cooperation with its sisterly countries of the continent in a way that would contribute to the improvement of the conditions of their peoples and consolidate their capability to face the challenges they are facing. Foremost among these challenges are development, consolidating democracy, and human rights, in addition to the challenge facing the South African people in attaining their full legitimate rights. He noted that the United Nations today marked the international day of solidarity with them.

The president stressed that all those challenges and the issue of boosting Arab-African cooperation will be at the top of the agenda of the forthcoming African summit due to be convened at the end of this month in Cairo.

The president's official spokesman said in that context that the Niger president expressed his appreciation of Tunisia's firm policy, under the leadership of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, of strengthening cooperation among African countries and praised the efforts being made by his excellency at the regional and international levels to achieve the conditions required to give impetus to the development of African countries for the benefit of their peoples.

He added that, on discussing the issues of the hour at international level, the two presidents stressed the need to work to resolve them in accordance with international law in a way that will establish peace and security in the world. In that context they dealt with the Palestinian people's just issue, stressing their support for the efforts being made to find a lasting solution to it in the framework of the Middle East peace talks.

The two presidents condemned the ethnic cleansing to which the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina are being subjected, stressing the need for the international community to take a firm stance to end that tragedy. [passage omitted]

Attends Farewell Ceremony

LD1606213993 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Excerpt] An official ceremony was held this afternoon at Carthage Palace during which President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali bade farewell to Nigerien President Mahamane Ousmane at the end of his friendly working visit to Tunisia. [passage omitted]

Says Visit Fruitful

LD1606215393 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The president of Niger made a statement to the press at Tunis-Carthage International Airport VIP hall. In the statement, he stressed that all the objectives of his visit to Tunisia have been achieved. The Niger president underlined the complete identity of views on all issues discussed and said agreement was reached on reviving the grand bilateral cooperation committee.

President Ousmane Mohamane added that his visit to Tunisia has been very fruitful and that it has culminated in a very positive outcome.

Statement Issued on Talks

LD1706055893 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Following the visit of Niger's president to Tunisia, a Tunisian-Niger press statement was issued. It stated, in particular, that the talks between the two presidents took place in an atmosphere dominated by true friendship and mutual brotherhood and enabled the consideration in depth of bilateral relations and the ways to further bolster them, as well as the exchange of views on current issues in the African and international arenas. The two presidents expressed satisfaction at the distinguished character of the traditional relations of cooperation and friendship existing between the Tunisian and Nigerien people, reiterating their commitment to the bonds of African and Islamic solidarity and to noble humanitarian values.

The two presidents emphasized their determination to revive Tunisian-Niger cooperation by intensifying trade exchanges and the exchange of visits between citizens of the two countries and by working to develop their relations in all fields of common interest.

Kuwait

'Not in a Hurry' To Restore Ties With Hostile States

LD1606141293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1152 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Vienna, 16 Jun (KUNA)—Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, affirmed today in Vienna that there are Arab countries which supported the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait that have started to make contact with Kuwait in an effort to restore trust between themselves and Kuwait.

However, al-Ahmad, who left Vienna today for Rabat, affirmed in a special statement he gave to KUNA that "Kuwait is not in a hurry about this issue." The foreign affairs minister, who headed Kuwait's delegation at the opening of the international conference for human rights in Vienna, pointed out that no meeting or contact has taken place between Kuwait and Yemen with respect to the restoration of relations.

The foreign affairs minister will deliver a message to the Moroccan monarch from his highness the amir of the country during his visit to Morocco. He pointed out that the news and rumors which recently talked about the possibility of a meeting between him and Muhammad [Salim Ali] Basinwah, the new Yemeni foreign affairs minister, on the sidelines of the Vienna conference as being "incorrect, and were only based on a statement given by the Yemeni minister with respect to relations with Kuwait."

The Kuwaiti foreign affairs minister said "the whole issue is that the new Yemeni foreign affairs minister, who is the first Yemeni foreign affairs minister after the invasion of Kuwait to do so, made a statement about the relations between his country and Kuwait, and I have welcomed that statement when I was asked by the press, as Basinwah is a friend before he is a foreign affairs minister."

Al-Ahmad affirmed that there was no contact to restore relations, and that the new Yemeni foreign affairs minister was only a friend. He noted that he welcomed the foreign affairs minister's statement, and expressed his hope that statement would be "the starting point for the return to the right, and free of the errors which were committed under Yemeni policy against Kuwait and its people."

Replying to a question on the veracity of reports of Arab efforts to clear the air and bring about reconciliation, particularly between the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states and countries which had supported the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said: "Kuwait is in no rush over the subject." [passage omitted]

Al-Ahmad explained that he had discussed various international resolutions relating to Kuwait in a meeting last night with the UN secretary general on the fringes of the international conference on human rights in Vienna and also the subject of sending the rest of the international force to the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border to back up the UNIKOM [UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission] forces in charge of supervising the cease-fire and monitoring the border in the buffer zone. [passage omitted]

He expressed hope that belief in the sacred nature of human rights would be engraved in the outcome of the Vienna international conference and that disagreements between countries of the South and countries of the North, including the United States, would not affect the success of that conference. He said that those disagreements were of a purely "mechanistic nature" and that some or most countries feared interference in their internal affairs through certain mechanisms and in the light of some of the issued tabled at the conference, such as the relation between development and human rights. [passage omitted]

Oil Minister Sees Gradual Increase in Production

LD1606142493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1306 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Jun (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Petroleum Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli expects the international oil markets to witness a surge in prices if OPEC member states stick to the production ceiling adopted at the recent Geneva meeting. He has stressed that Kuwait will be committed to its previous quota, i.e., 1.6 million barrels a day until the end of June.

In an exclusive statement to KUNA, he said that the International Energy Agency and most local experts had agreed that demand for oil would vary between 24.2 to 24.7 million barrels a day, in addition to the need of the market for building a reserve of between 500 and 600 thousand barrels a day. The minister further said: Kuwait will be increasing its production gradually in a way that will not affect prices. Our production will not arrive at 2 million barrels a day at a stroke, but we will be monitoring the market, he said.

He stressed that even if Kuwait pumped all the extra production it had asked for at the last Geneva meeting, it would not affect prices and despite this it had committed itself before the OPEC member states and before the world to raise its production in a responsible way. He urged all the exporting countries to assume their responsibilities and not to blame one state and not another, because responsibility is collective.

He touched upon the last OPEC meeting in Geneva and said: "We did not enter that agreement because it lacks credibility and the members did not stick to their promise to Kuwait to increase its production quota as of next July."

He added that the organization had decided to extend last February's agreement and to continue with the production ceiling set then which was 23.582 million

barrels a day, making Kuwait walk out of the agreement. The minister of petroleum said: "OPEC did not carry out its promise to Kuwait to give it a quota similar to countries with its output power because of opposition by some members who insisted on rejecting the Kuwaiti request and favored that Kuwait remain outside the agreement."

He hinted that now that Kuwait was out of the agreement, it had a right to increase its output beyond its previous ceiling in accordance with the law.

On the other hand, Minister al-Baghli said that he would meet soon with senior officials in the institution [not further identified] and the ministry to draw up a future strategy for the company until next September. He said: "We will announce our production strategy later."

The petroleum minister mentioned that the Kuwait-Danish oil company owned by the Kuwait oil company had a market share in Denmark worth 21 percent of the distribution of oil products and had 522 petrol stations.

The petroleum minister had visited Denmark straight after the end of the ministerial OPEC meeting, recently held in Vienna.

Finance Minister on Higher Planning Council, OPEC

LD1206204693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1755 GMT 12 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 12 Jun (KUNA)—Finance and Planning Minister Nasir al-Radwan said today that he had discussed the question of the proposed amendment to increase the membership of the Higher Planning Council with the National Assembly's Finance and Economy Committee. The finance minister told reporters that he agreed with the committee to review in three weeks the draft bill presented by some members which concerns the government's sale of shares in some industrial sectors to the private sector.

The minister also stated that the government and the National Assembly were interested in the question of credits from the Loans and Savings Bank.

The minister also expressed the belief that the quota set by OPEC at its meeting in Geneva on 8 June was below the level Kuwait had hoped to obtain.

Finance and Planning Minister Nasir al-Radwan said that he met today with the members of the National Assembly's Finance and Economy Committee to examine two bills, one of which concerns economic and social planning. Minister Radwan indicated that Articles 10 and 12, which provide for the formation of the Higher Planning Council and highlight the importance of limiting the membership of this council, would be amended. He added that he had clarified the government's view, arguing that preserving the text in its present form would be better than limiting it with a number since there is a wider participation by the public in the Higher Planning Council.

He went on to say that the previous text had set the committee's membership at eight members from the government and eight from the private sector and that the proposed amendment asked for the inclusion of a number of ministers, government officials, and experts in the Higher Planning Council.

Minister al-Radwan also said that it was the government's view that the practical implementation of this amendment already existed since the government increased the participation of experts and specialists in the council. He added that in its present form the Higher Planning Council was made up of eight members from the government and 18 members from outside the government sector. This, he said, clearly proves that the government had tried to expand the participation of the public in the Higher Planning Council in view of the importance of this participation in the examination of the development plans put before the council.

Mr. Nasir al-Radwan said that the other topic on the agenda was the draft law presented by some members on the government's selling of shares in some industrial areas to the private sector, whereby it would give priority to whoever exploits these shares in accordance with its current price.

The minister added that as a result of the topic being intertwined and linked with various governmental bodies—the Kuwait municipality, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, al-fatwa and legislation departments, the Finance Ministry, represented by the department of state properties, and the Kuwaiti Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which serves as a representative of the beneficiaries of these shares—it was agreed with the committee to review this topic after three weeks, as it was apparent to the presenters of the draft law that the aim of the law was to settle the problem of industrial shares.

The government was asked to air its opinion on the solutions, procedures, and suitable decisions to treat the status of the industrial areas in Kuwait.

In response to a question, the minister said: "The loans by the Loans and Savings Bank are one of the issues getting great attention either from citizens, members of the National Assembly, or the government."

He added: "We are trying from time to time to update a lot of the decisions relating to loans which would enable the Loans and Savings Bank to provide services to the citizens with ease. The last decisions that the bank issued on reducing the number of installments that the citizens were benefiting from had a good effect and positive repercussions from those benefiting from the bank. [passage omitted]

Minister al-Radwan said in response to a question that Kuwait is 90-percent dependent on its income from oil

revenues and that any increase in oil production would reflect positively on the budget and would reduce the deficit, while any reduction in oil production would reflect negatively on revenues.

The minister said he believed that the last OPEC decision to allocate 1.76 million barrels per day to Kuwait does not meet the standard which we desire to reach, especially since Petroleum Minister 'Ali al-Baghli got firm promises from OPEC members at the previous OPEC meeting to increase Kuwait's quota.

He added that we are awaiting the return of the petroleum minister to find out the details of the last OPEC meeting in Geneva on 8 June to closely review the aspects of quota distribution and the deliberations which took place. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Leaves for Talks in Greece 16 Jun

LD1606132793 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0953 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 16 Jun (KUNA)—Defense Minister 'Ali Sabah al-Salim left this morning for a three-day official visit in Athens on invitation from his Greek counterpart. Al-Salim will hold a series of talks with the highest ranking officials at the Greek Defense Ministry dealing with a number of military issues. [passage omitted]

Oman

India's Rao Completes 'Fruitful' Visit, Departs

BK1606034893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] The prime minister says India and Oman can look forward to an era of renewed economic and political, and cultural cooperation. Talking to the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, who called on him in Muscat yesterday evening, Mr. Narasimha Rao described his visit to that country as very fruitful. The two leaders also reviewed bilateral relations and regional issues. The prime minister underlined the need for follow-up action and more interaction between the foreign ministers of the two countries for the early completion of the joint venture projects.

Earlier, at a meeting with the representatives of the Omani businessmen, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that the joint ventures reflect the strong bilateral cooperation. He said both the sides are determined to achieve results without delay to avoid escalated costs. Mr. Narasimha Rao reiterated that his government's liberalized economic policy is irreversible. He told them that India offers vast opportunities for growth and profitable ventures, he said [as heard]. He urged the Omani businessmen to look upon India as an area of promising and profitable investment. Mr. Narasimha Rao recalled India's age-old traditional relations with Oman and said his exhaustive talks with the Omani ruler, Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id al Sa'id, has been highly satisfactory. Mr. Narasimha Rao is returning home today.

Murderer's Execution First Announced Officially

NC1606143393 Paris AFP in English 1412 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Muscat, June 16 (AFP)—Oman on Wednesday executed a convicted Filipino murderer in the first execution officially announced here, the official ONA news agency reported.

Legal sources told AFP that Edwin Rakteen was shot.

Rakteen was convicted of stabbing to death an Omani woman in November 1991 and of "harming" another Omani woman and a Filipina, ONA said. It did not elaborate.

Saudi Arabia

Communique on Trade, Investments Signed With Tunisia

LD1706090593 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Proceedings of the fourth session of the Saudi-Tunisian Joint Committee this evening concluded at the Conference Hall in Riyadh. The Saudi side was headed by Minister of Finance and National Economy Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, while Minister of International Cooperation and Foreign Investment Mohamed Ghannouchi headed the Tunisian side. [passage omitted]

The two ministers later signed the protocol of the fourth session of the Saudi-Tunisian Joint Committee.

The session today issued a final communique in which the two sides reiterated their desire to increase and diversify their trade exchanges so as to put them on a par with the various production and exporting capabilities available to both countries and to remove all possible hurdles in that respect. They stressed the need to encourage trade exchanges between them. [passage omitted]

In the field of investment, the two sides agreed to keep the unified Arab agreement on investment of Arab capital in Arab countries, although that does not exclude discussing a draft bilateral agreement on encouraging, protecting, and guaranteeing future investment. They stressed the importance of joint investment ventures in both countries on sound economic bases to benefit from the available potential. [passage omitted]

The two sides agreed to hold the fifth joint session in Tunisia in 1414 AH, corresponding to 1994, on a date to be agreed by them later.

Contracts Signed for Repairing Quake Damage in Egypt

LD1506205593 Riyadh SPA in English 1928 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Riyadh, June 15, SPA—Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, governor of Riyadh Region and president of the higher commission for collection of donations for victim of the earthquake in Egypt, signed here today, in the presence of Egyptian Ambassador to the Kingdom Mohammed Fathi al-Shadli, SR [Saudi riyals] 17 million worth contracts for re-building of number of mosques, schools and institutes demolished by the earthquake that hit Cairo and other Egyptian cities last October.

Under the contracts projects of ten mosques, four schools and four religious institutes will be implemented within 12 months under the supervision of the higher commission for collection of donations for victims of the earthquake in Egypt.

Speaking on the occasion Prince Salman highlighted the existing fraternal relations between the Kingdom and Egypt and hoped that they would further be enhanced.

For his part the Egyptian ambassador expressed appreciation for the unlimited support extended by the Kingdom to Egypt.

It is worth mentioning that custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz donated SR 40 million for the victims of the earthquake in Egypt and issued his directives to Prince Salman to take the required arrangements for collection of donations from the various parts of the Kingdom for the victims of the earthquake.

Moreover, the monarch ordered the minister of finance and national economy to extend 50 million to the Egyptian Government.

On the other hand, Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy premier and commander of the National Guard, donated SR 20 million for the victims of the earthquake.

United Arab Emirates

Editorial Presses for U.S.-PLO Dialogue in Talks

JN1506174793 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 12 June 93 p 1

[Editorial: "Unacceptable Contradiction"]

[Text] The United States will not be able to play the role of a full partner at the Arab-Israeli bilateral negotiations and will not be able to play a role even as a middleman as long as there is a permanent ban on contacts with the PLO, which is the legitimate, world-recognized, and legal representative of the Palestinian people.

It is well known that this ban is based on a mysterious promise made 20 years ago by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in which the United States pledged not to hold contacts with the PLO because it is a "terrorist organization."

Despite the fact that the PLO has cleared itself of these charges, giving practical and documented evidence of this and met all the terms put forward by the U.S. Administration, contacts with it are still not forthcoming, under the pretext that the United States cannot renege on a pledge made by its secretary of state.

In fact, there is too much contradiction in this argument because if we assume the Kissinger pledge is legitimate, we must mention many U.S. pledges to the Arabs, none of which has been fulfilled. The latest of these, for example, are the promises pertaining to the status of Jerusalem and the right of Palestinians to establish their independent entity, which former President Jimmy Carter offered as annexes to the Camp David agreements.

There are also the UN resolutions stipulating Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territory. By all standards, these are more binding than a promise made by a Jewish secretary of state to the Jewish mother state.

A few days ago, a U.S. official said his government's patience was about to be exhausted because of the continuous setbacks in the negotiating process. In fact, it is the Arabs' patience that has been exhausted because of the U.S. Administration's defeatist attitude and its failure to assume its role as a full partner in the peace process, or at least behave in a manner that could render some credibility to itself as the self-proclaimed leader of the new world order.

Yemen

President Grants Interview to Kuwaiti Newspaper

JN1606150493 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Jun 93

["Text" of interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Ahmad al-Jarallah, editor in chief of Kuwait AL-SIYASAH; published in the 16 June edition of AL-SIYASAH and carried within the "Comment on the News" program—read by announcer]

[Text] [Al-Jarallah] Let me ask you at the outset what you would like to say to the Kuwaiti people.

[Salih] I would say at the outset that I am pleased to see the newspaper AL-SIYASAH here in Yemen for the first time since the Gulf crisis. AL-SIYASAH adopted positive positions toward Yemen before the crisis. After the crisis, the paper took a more or less opposite stand, writing material that was harmful to Yemen. However, we tolerated the situation in view of what happened to the brothers in Kuwait. A man always cries when he is hurt. This is as far as AL-SIYASAH is concerned.

To the fraternal Kuwaiti people, we say that the Yemeni Government and people never adopted an anti-Kuwaiti stand. Yemen holds the Kuwaiti brothers in high esteem and with love, especially the Kuwaiti position on the 26 September revolution and the 14 October revolution. The Kuwaiti brothers stood by Yemen and took positive positions on politics, culture and development. We always appreciate the role of your amir, Shaykh Jabir, and his government. Evidence of this role can still be seen in Yemen.

Regrettably, the Gulf crisis cast a dark shadow on Yemeni-Kuwaiti relations, which were always special and ideal relations between brothers.

While we would not like to reopen the Gulf crisis dossier—we consider what happened to be a chapter in the past—we would like to open a new chapter in inter-Arab relations, especially with the brothers on the Arabian Peninsula. I want to take this opportunity to explain, in a Kuwaiti newspaper, the real Yemeni position on this crisis. This stand was tarnished, distorted, and misunderstood.

In the first place, Yemen had nothing to do with the invasion. The fact is that Yemen was a member of the Arab Cooperation Council, which also included Egypt, Iraq, and Jordan. We were the first to be disturbed by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwaiti in August 1990. I was outside the capital at that time. When I received the news, I contacted the brothers in Saudi Arabia to understand the facts about what happened and how the problem could be dealt with as soon as possible, because nobody would allow such a thing. Indeed, we maintained contact with the Saudi brothers and we agreed to pay a visit to Saudi Arabia and to Iraq.

I left for Iraq at the head of a large delegation. I met with the Iraqi leadership. We told them: We are surprised by the invasion. People differ, but issues do not take on such a dimension. We told them: We are in an embarrassing position, because we are members in the Arab Cooperation Council and the decision was wrong. As brothers, we do not allow such a move. The international community does not approve of this.

We contacted King Fahd from Baghdad because he was closer than anyone else, so he could tackle the situation. I met with him in Jeddah. We had a long talk about what we could do together. I then visited Egypt and met with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. We found them very disturbed because of what happened. We told them: We are pained by what happened, but how can we contain the issue? We proposed the idea of an Arab solution to the problem and proposed that President Mubarak, King Fahd, King Husayn and other Arab leaders play a role in containing and resolving the problem within an Arab framework, especially since each of them had good relations with Iraq that could be exploited in order to find an Arab solution.

We started to act on this basis. There was an idea to hold a five-party meeting in Jeddah before holding an Arab summit. Then, a delegation of Arab leaders would go to Iraq to persuade it to withdraw. Regrettably, however, things turned out differently.

When the Cairo summit was held, we hoped to communicate with our Kuwaiti brothers. However, there was a view that Yemen blessed and supported the invasion. Some even claimed Yemen was involved in the plot. We always found excuses for our Kuwaiti brothers, since their position was justified. After all, their country was under occupation. They had the right to say whatever they wanted and to complain. So, we said we would not be angry and would wait until things cooled down.

Our relationship with the Kuwaiti people does not depend on a published interview. The sentiments our people harbor toward the Kuwaiti people were demonstrated during the crisis, particularly since the Yemeni community in Kuwait left Kuwait peacefully. They did not steal or plunder property, nor did they cause harm. Some Yemenis remained in Kuwait. The purpose of their stay there was noble. It was to protect the funds and property of their fraternal Kuwaitis, who assigned them this task. We were looking forward to a more powerful Arab position, which could have replaced the disunity that plagued Arab ranks then. We were hopeful that a visit to Baghdad by a delegation of Arab leaders to persuade it to withdraw its troops would materialize. This could have created a unified Arab stance, in case Iraq did not endorse the notion of withdrawal. At any rate, we attempted to contact the brothers in Iraq more than once. We dispatched several delegations to Iraq: Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council; brother Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Presidential Council, as well as Prime Minister brother Haydar Abu- Bakr al-'Attas went to Baghdad to convince the Iraqis that a foreign presence in the region was beginning to take root, that the region was experiencing an ordeal, and that we all would suffer from its repercussions. We advised them to withdraw their troops from Kuwait. However, they responded by saying: Any discussion of the withdrawal idea is a type of blasphemy.

At any rate, we have in our possession minutes of meetings and documents that confirm all I have told you. We will publish them when the time is right.

There was an unfair campaign against Yemen. The Yemeni position was so distorted that some reports claimed that Yemen had Iraqi troops on its territory, as well as Iraqi missiles, aircraft and tanks. Afterward, it became clear that all these reports were groundless. God be praised, the facts are now being unearthed. He who wants to be enlightened about the true state of affairs then and understand it will bring himself to do so. As for he who does not want to do so, he will not understand the facts regardless of the number of initiatives and gestures entailed.

If we go back a little in time, we will remember that the first spontaneous demonstration denouncing the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was staged in Sanaa. However, after

that there were many demonstrations denouncing foreign deployments in the region.

In view of the political pluralism and the multiparty system in Yemen, the parties met—and we have more than 42 parties—and a committee was formed against the will of the authority to oppose foreign intervention in the region.

In Yemen, we sought to resolve the problem in an Arab context. We were certain that such a solution was possible and that it would spare the Arab nation huge losses. We affirm to our brothers in Kuwait that Yemen has nothing against Kuwait. The opposite is true. We had wanted to repay some of the favors to Kuwait, which always sided with us. Despite this, we do not blame the brothers in Kuwait for what they thought about Yemen, because they were wounded and hurt, (?but of course) not by Yemen.

[Al-Jarallah] But, Your Excellency the president, the Yemeni position was clearly biased toward Iraq and was meant to buy time in the interest of Iraq.

[Salih] As I told you before, we have a file containing documents and minutes which I hope every Kuwaiti will read to learn about our true position. We, however, say that Kuwait was wounded. We have to understand the suffering that resulted from this wound and not be unfair. We really wanted to use our membership in the Arab Cooperation Council and to use our relationship with Iraq to play a role that might have prevented the war and spared Kuwait, Iraq, and the Arab nation from harm.

We proceeded from a conviction that the crisis could be resolved by the Arabs, to avoid the deployment of foreign troops in the region, knowing that it might be difficult for these troops to leave the region in the future.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Excellency the president: We are now discussing things according to some logic. Your calculations, in light of this logic, might be right or wrong. This is yet to be determined in the future. Did you, however, expect Saudi Arabia or Kuwait to wait for an Arab solution, when Iraq did not stop at the border of Kuwait and was advancing toward the eastern region of Saudi Arabia and tightening its grip on Kuwait?

[Salih] Kuwait has the right to seek even the assistance of the devil to defend itself. But we had hoped to see an Arab solution to spare the Arab nation [word indistinct] and spare the Arab nation and Arab resources more losses, because foreign powers usually care about their own interests. Their deployment in the region has inherent dangers. Our position was understood as biased toward Iraq. We tolerated this when it was said by some brothers in Kuwait. Kuwait was hurt and we did not want to hurt it more. However, our position was clear. We never approved of one state swallowing another state. We held the conviction that we needed to address the root causes of the problem. Our duty was to help Kuwait as brothers and to act as Arab leaders to address the crisis in a responsible manner. Anyway, this is left for history to judge.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Excellency, foreign forces liberated Kuwait. They did not remain after carrying out their duties. They left the region. This means your apprehensions were incorrect, uncalled for. After discovering this, why did Yemen not approach the Gulf states to rectify its position?

[Salih] Yemen defined its position toward its brothers in the peninsula and the Gulf. It endeavored to explain its position and remove the misunderstanding, due to its eagerness to establish relations of good neighborliness, brotherhood, and cooperation with our brothers in the Peninsula and the Gulf. After the Gulf war ended, we felt we needed time for our emotions to abate. Each of us needed breathing space to recapitulate and see where he made mistakes, where he erred. We always called for forgetting the past after learning its lessons, turning a new page in relations between brothers.

In politics, there are no permanent friendships or permanent enmities. Interests require people to search for common denominators to agree on. From the historical and geographical viewpoint, Yemen is an integral part of the peninsula and the Gulf. It is a strategic extension of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and other states in the region. No matter how angry with each other the brothers may become, they will remain in need of each other. Nobody can do without the other. So, why not repair the damage this crisis has done and learn the stiff lessons of the past and bypass the black chapters.

We are proud of Kuwait and its stands. We wish it well. We also are proud of any fraternal Arab country that supported us. Despite what has been written in some newspapers, especially the Kuwaiti press, not a single Yemeni newspaper, Yemeni official or leader has ever directed an insult. On the contrary, there has been sympathy with the fraternal Kuwaiti people in their ordeal. Everyone was concerned about the fate toward which the nation was pushed because of this crisis. Discord and estrangement cannot continue. Even friendships can be marred by differences. Why not maintain common denominators? We all need security and stability. We want to exchange benefits. We would like economic interests to develop among Arab states so all will cooperate for the sake of security and stability. The region's security is an integrated unit. Each of us represents a strategic extension of the other. So, why don't we meet, discuss matters, and open our hearts to each other as brothers. This is in our interest.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Excellency the president: What is the current status of the Arab Cooperation Council?

[Salih] From the legal point of view, it is still intact. So far, none of its four founding member states has withdrawn from it. But, thanks to the Gulf crisis, it is virtually lifeless.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Excellency the president: It was said that you were hoping to obtain a chunk of territory in southern Saudi Arabia in the aftermath of the Kuwait invasion.

[Salih] This was part of the media campaign which tried to distort Yemen's position. Such an idea never dawned on us. We harbor no ambitions against anyone. We are a country preoccupied with its economic and development concerns. We seek to coexist peacefully with others. Besides, nothing between us and the fraternal Saudis could have caused such a thing. We are eager to maintain good relations with all brothers, particularly with our brothers in the Arabian peninsula and the Arabian Gulf, given the special relationship we have always maintained with them.

[Al-Jarallah] What about the Yemeni-Saudi borders?

[Salih] We held a 10-year dialogue with the brothers in Oman on common borders. This dialogue was crowned with the signing of a border demarcation agreement, to the satisfaction of both parties. The agreement ensured that neither of the parties was harmed. Things between us and the brothers in Oman have proceeded well. This could set an example for what might happen between us and our brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In the aftermath of its unity, and in the first government statement delivered before the Council of Representatives, Yemen affirmed its willingness to resolve the issue of borders with neighboring countries, particularly with Muscat and Riyadh. Indeed, the borders with the fraternal Sultanate of Oman have been demarcated. A committee of experts has been formed to negotiate with the fraternal Saudis on the border problem. We want the problem of the Saudi-Yemeni borders to be resolved to the satisfaction of both parties. Care must be taken to ensure neither of the parties is harmed. This would satisfy both parties, as well as provide stability for both countries. God willing, we hope dialogue and negotiations with the fraternal Saudis will help achieve this noble objective, which concerns all of us in the region.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Excellency the president: At present, are you satisfied with the position of Iraq, which refuses to hand over Kuwaiti prisoners of war?

[Salih] We believe Iraq should hand over Kuwaiti prisoners of war, if it has any. We are even willing to play a role in this regard by interceding with Iraq to help resolve this issue, if you so wish and desire.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Excellency the president: You say you want good relations with the Gulf states and Kuwait. Given all that has happened, and apart from this desire, can you elaborate on this?

[Salih] As I have already said, we are eager to maintain good ties with our brothers in Kuwait and the Gulf states in general, away from any misgivings or interpretations that could have taken up residence in the mind. Such interpretations might not be the proper interpretations. Talk about the Kuwait invasion and the Gulf crisis, in general, is bound to be lengthy and full of details. Let us brush all this aside, apart from what could correct positions and bring about rapprochement. Since there are no permanent friendships or enmities in the world of politics, let us admit that differences of opinion must be accepted. So, let us not allow this to keep us apart. I would like to say, again, that the Yemeni people opposed what happened to Kuwait. The Kuwaiti flag continued to fly in Yemen. Similarly, we protected Kuwaiti property and investments. We want good ties with our brothers in the Gulf states, because there are fraternal and amicable multifaceted ties of cooperation based on the mutual respect binding us all.

The world is witnessing many changes. Neighboring states, as well as states having similar social characteristics, have an interest in pooling their ranks and achieving rapprochement among themselves. Cooperation between neighbors is inevitable, within the framework of exchanging benefits, and will, undoubtedly, be in the interest of the region's states and the Arab nation.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Excellency the president: Were you sincere in limiting the presidential term to a specific period?

[Salih] Yes, we have set a limit to the presidential term. We are accustomed to certain criteria in the Arab world, including one that the ruler remains in office for life, or until killed, jailed, or exiled. In Yemen, we have deep roots in history. We want to prove our credibility. Therefore, we have limited the presidency to two terms. We do not want a ruler for life. Nor do we want to kill, jail, or exile him. Arab media do not believe we have departed from these criteria and limited the presidential term to a specific period, because they are not accustomed to such a matter. We are serious in limiting the presidential term to a specific period. No one believed Yemen's unity would occur, but it was established and became strong. No one believes democracy will prevail in Yemen, but it has become the system of government. No one believed elections would take place, but they were held. No one believed a coalition government would be formed until it was formed. The Yemenis have special characteristics. They disagree, but soon agree.

[Al-Jarallah] What is the nature of the economic situation in Yemen?

[Salih] We are facing a difficult economic situation, but we are optimistic about the future and the potentials of the land of Yemen. We believe development leads to stability and progress. Yemen needs stability. I believe the private sector of the Yemeni people has much money, but has been living in a period of meditation to see how matters will proceed. I believe that if it senses stability, it will invest its money in its country. The money these people have may amount to $10 billion. We have some evidence of that. What is important is to increase development rates, particularly in the atmosphere of political and economic freedom. There is an investment law allowing many opportunities and guarantees for the investors.

[Al-Jarallah] What are your current relations with Iraq?

[Salih] We maintain normal relations.

UN Envoy Reports Kuwaiti Kidnappings, Other Violations

JN1706091693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0849 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Text] The United Nations, 17 Jun (INA)—Kuwaiti patrols kidnapped several Iraqi farmers late last month. In a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's UN representative, has said that on 27 May, Kuwaiti patrols kidnapped four Iraqi farmers while they working on their farm. They are 'Adnan Jabbar 'Abdallah, Basim Jabbar 'Abdallah, Ibrahim 'Abd- al-Muhsin Jabbar, and Matar Musa Sharid.

Hamdun added that on 4 and 5 May, Kuwaiti gunboats opened fire on Iraqi boats while fishing close to the Iraqi coast. He pointed out that the Kuwaiti violations included shooting at Iraqi territories and police stations and introducing banned weapons into the demilitarized zone.

Saddam Praises Employee Efforts in Banknote Withdrawal

JN1206152193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Jun 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, has been briefed on the efforts exerted by Finance Ministry employees, particularly bank employees, to implement Revolution Command Council [RCC] Decree No. 79 issued on 4 May 1993 which provided for the withdrawal of the 25-dinar banknote carrying the symbols Kha' 'Ayn from circulation within the period fixed by the decree.

Commenting on these efforts, the leader president said: May God bless the Iraqis who exerted sincere, honest, and effective efforts. May God grant the Finance Ministry employees success in their efforts to please God and the people and to fortify the homeland in the face of the wicked ones and occupiers. God is great.

In a statement to INA, Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn said: This appreciation of the sincere efforts exerted by the employees of the banks and the Central Bank of iraq gave us additional energy to exert more efforts and to make sacrifices in the service of great Iraq under the banner of the knight of the nation and the builder of its glories, leader struggler President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him.

The finance minister added that the employees of banks and the Central Bank of Iraq carried out the RCC decree accurately and firmly and worked day and night throughout the set period to accomplish the mission. The employees showed patience and high commitment, and their performance was excellent. The employees, he added, competed to implement the decree accurately and honestly, and the decree was implemented within the fixed period.

The finance minister said: The great words and appreciation expressed by the leader of the people to his sons, the Finance Ministry employees, will have a great role in the employees' thorough performance and honest implementation to satisfy God, the people, and the leader and to strengthen the homeland under the pioneer leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

Concluding his statement, the finance minister pledged to leader President Saddam Husayn, in the name of the ministry employees, to exert sincere efforts to serve, reinforce, and develop the march of the Iraqi economy. This gesture, he said, will be the beginning of a new stage in the work of the employees of the bank and financial departments in Iraq after they were honored by the president.

Saddam Delivers Address to Youth on Social Affairs

JN1406130893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Jun 93

["First part" of address by President Saddam Husayn to the chairman and members of the Executive Bureau of the General Union of Iraqi Youth; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] I want to make some additional remarks. Although some of these remarks have been made on previous occasions—during our meetings with youths or with other parties—I am dutybound to repeat these remarks. Some of these remarks are made for the first time.

With regard to the remarks which I want to draw your attention to [words indistinct] in the very enlightened popular organizations. We must get people used to expressing their opinions frankly, and at the same time, people should get used to the fact that frankness does not contradict good manners. If a person says something that may harm another person this, in our society, is considered a form of encroachment. People should be trained to balance their words before uttering them because balanced words will be more effective than words uttered frankly, but without showing respect for the other person. Good manners should not prevent people from balancing frank words. At the same time, frankness should not contradict good manners.

We notice that in both ancient and modern times there are people who behave with good manners and, at the same time, make great achievements in life.

At the same time, we read about the past and can count present phenomena when societies abandon the traditions that call for good manners. When these societies lose their values, which are emphasized by traditions, they lose their structural bases.

We stress to our youths that the most important thing to maintain this balance is to say the right thing and work in the right direction. This is the standard of good

manners that is contained in the holy Koran, the standard of good manners which Almighty God asked the faithful ones to follow in dealing with great Prophet Muhammad, may God's prayers and peace be upon him. What Almighty God intended was not only in terms of spirit. In its text, God referred to Prophet Muhammad, but in its spirit He wanted to instruct us how man should be later, in the stage in which he exists, and throughout life.

I notice that some youths, sometimes, while inclining toward freedom—which is basically a correct inclination .... [changes thought] Freedom is part of man. It means that he thinks without being forced to think or not to think about a particular thing and to behave in accordance with the values of freedom in which he and the society believe. It also means that he inclines toward what is higher, also in accordance with this spirit. The general trend is right, but he should always remember that since the beginning of humanity and societies there has always been similar standards regarding this issue.

If there was only one man on earth, he would be free to wear, eat, and speak whatever he wants; he would be free in everything. But, when there is another person with him, all these things should be balanced with the view and interest of the second man living with him in the same place and time. Imagine the situation when there are societies, not only two persons, living in the same place at the same time?

A social norm is thus something agreed and willingly accepted by the majority of people in a logical sequence conforming to the circumstances. A social norm is also a determining factor rather than a restriction. In other words, it is a signal that draws the attention of a liberal man to the fact that he should respect the unanimous opinion of the majority of people. If a liberal man supposes—and this is a correct assumption—that he can frankly give his own opinion on an issue, he should not be annoyed by others' opinions.

For example, I once told some journalists and authors that they should not claim the right to express their views on political decisionmaking while not tolerating each other's literary opinions. Political decisionmaking is something much greater than a mere literary viewpoint. It is true that a literary viewpoint is important, but the impact of a political decision made at a given moment and under certain circumstances may be much greater than a literary viewpoint or an opinion on a published plan, an artistic painting, a poetry verse, or other literary and artistic matters.

I criticized these journalists and authors, telling them that since they do not tolerate one another we will not accept their views on political issues. If any citizen, whether young or old, says that he has the right to express his personal opinions, he should also respect others' opinions. Within this context, I would like to draw attention to another social issue which I had previously discussed.

In the past, and before education prevailed in Iraq, the considerations of experience and knowledge used to largely depend on one's age, hence the famous saying: If someone is a day older than you, he will be one year more experienced than you. This saying stresses the need for young people to learn from older people. This is because in a village, for example, there are often various age groups. The facts of life in a village are the same, and experience is gained there by dealing with these facts. As all residents of a village usually deal with the same facts of life and because their circumstances are almost the same, an older man usually has more experience than a younger man.

Based on this state of affairs, a grandfather and a grandmother at home were a great asset for the family. This created a correct balance between the desires of male and female youths for freedom and life and the fact that these desires should stem from their soundly inherited traditions agreed by most people. A grandmother usually conveys all inherited ideas, whereas a father or a mother, usually chooses either to revive the old traditions or make a balance between new and old ideas.

Parents should teach their sons to follow only the good things from the old times. Three generations are involved here—the grandfather, the father, and the son.

What happened in our society after the revolution? What happened after 1974 and 1975—that is, when our financial resources improved after the nationalization of our oil? In the past, we shared our oil resources with the monopolist oil companies after bearing all their expenses. Our financial resources improved when all oil revenues entered our treasury. Some youths might not be aware of the situation of their people before the revolution. Parents who believe that giving their sons an idea about the previous life will be a burden on their present life, are mistaken. The way of life of any people is not a burden on this people except when this people has usurped the rights of others. The farmer should explain to his son how he worked and lived and with whom he shared his products at the end of the season. The worker should also explain to his son that his wage was a quarter of a dinar, how he fought to get a 20 or 50 fils pay raise, and how he sought the mediation of many people to find a job. The policeman should also tell his family that his salary was two dinars and three-quarters and then became seven dinars. The new generation should understand the development that took place in the country.

Let us go back to our subject. A grandmother was a school; a mother was a school; and a father was a school.

A great development took place after the revolution in terms of education, culture, and aspirations. Suddenly, families moved from Iraq's rural areas to Baghdad. The mother remained illiterate and her level of thinking remained as it was; the daughter became a university student; the father remained illiterate and maintained his level of understanding; and the son became a university student.

I have noticed, or concluded, that some sons do not value the opinions of their fathers because they imagine that their academic education has made them superior to their fathers and to their mothers. True, their fathers may be illiterate, but if these sons do not listen to their fathers and mothers on issues related to the social life, they will live without roots. And people without roots will be vulnerable.

Therefore, we still need to listen to the views of our grandfathers and grandmothers and to pay attention to the social thought they present to us. We still need to listen to the views of our fathers and mothers and to pay particular attention to the social thought and guidance they present to us.

Some people would say—and I know that much is being said on this subject—that when fathers or mothers speak about something the sons would turn their faces away and tell them that times are different. This is not true, because if the present is not based on the past it will be to no avail.

The new resources which were made available some time after the success of the blessed July revolution helped divide families quickly. Any young man who wanted to get married would leave his family, his father, grandfather, and grandmother. He would visit them when there was an occasion, just like any other visit. There is no longer a grandmother with him at home to tell him that this or that conduct is wrong. The mother comes from college and the father comes from college. They probably got married when they were 18, before they went to college. They might get married when they are 22 after finishing college. Even when they are 22, they still need advice by the father and mother on social issues which should have sound foundations.

Some children turn seven and still their parents do not tell them what is right and what is wrong. There are basics in our life that should be taught from early childhood. Otherwise, it will be very difficult to teach them later and we will pay a high price.

What advice can we give to our youth under the circumstances of the blockade? You have just spoken about an initiative by one of the workers in the private sector to facilitate marriage for youth. I hope we will have many like this person.

In past circumstances and because of the social structure, a young man had to stay for one year, two, or three years, and sometimes four, five, or six years, and even 10 or 20, depending on circumstances, with his family. I know how difficult it is for a small family to live with a big family. I know that the small family will lose part of its freedom. However, easy come, easy go. We are living under a blockade. A young single man cannot now rent an apartment in Baghdad, even if he and his wife both work. It is better for him to live with his family. I am not saying that a young man should force his wife to live with his family. He should try to make her understand. Both of them should reach an understanding as to where they should live, whether with his parents or her parents. This is better than doing something and paying a high price for it, such as the many social wrongdoings we hear about. When the law later asks this young man why he did this or that, he will reply that he was a young man who got married, rented an apartment and then could not pay the rent and so had to steal, God forbid. Is this better? Even if nobody saw this young man when he did something wrong, God saw him and he also saw himself. He will live the rest of his life suffering with the knowledge that one day he stole money from someone else or from public funds. Is this better? It is better for him to bear any pressure regarding personal freedom with his family and to live in a room with his family and use their utilities. I have seen and heard about many similar cases. People used to get married and live with their parents.

A young man, who has now passed the age of youth, told me: When I got married, I bought a bed and a mirror. I framed the mirror and fixed it on the wall. She considered it part of the furniture. I put a chair in front of the mirror. At the same time, the youths I heard about or personally saw [words indistinct]. They buy [word indistinct] this month. Next month they buy a cooker. A month later, they buy [word indistinct], for example. Now they cannot buy a refrigerator. In the past, they used to buy a refrigerator by installments. Now such installment facilities do not exist. The societies that can take refrigerators from the producer [words indistinct] at least for those married. When I got married, I bought a cooler for 48 dinars and a refrigerator for 110 dinars. I did not buy a television set. I received one as a wedding present. 'Adnan bought me the refrigerator and cooler by installments from the army shops. We used to pay monthly installments. What is important is that the young man should build himself up. When he can afford a good lodging and feels he is strong, he can very politely tell his mother and father or mother-in-law and father-in-law that he is now able to leave their place. Thus, they as well as he will feel more comfortable. They will thus be able to marry off their next son in the same way. Which is better: To do it this way or remain unmarried? Daughters often become spinsters for insisting on having a separate lodging and possessing certain things. I would like to directly talk to daughters and say: Who can now provide this and that for her? If she wants a lifetime husband, she should select one suiting her age and mentality. She should select a husband who decides to live with her for a lifetime. If she insists on having this or that thing, she should then pay the price. What is the price? A married person might come and have her as a second wife. Except for a few cases created by certain economic circumstances, no youth can possess much before he is middle-aged. This is the natural progression of life. My maternal uncle Khayrallah Tilfah managed to own a house only one year before the revolution. He bought a car only four or five years before the revolution after he became an inspector at the [words indistinct], that is, after he passed the age of 50, or perhaps 60 because he tries to hide his real age.

Brothers, comrades, and those listening to me: Life cannot proceed according to one's desires but according to a sound balance and balanced will. Through a balanced will, one can achieve results. An unbalanced will means that one has lost the support and blessing of his moves by both God and the people. These people include one's family and the society.

If, for example, she insists on having a car, which regrettably is the new trend [sentence incomplete as heard] I will brief you on the young women before the revolution. From 1958 to 1979, and perhaps to 1980, young women refused to marry [old, rich] contractors because they decided to take them as real husbands in conformity with the rights and duties stipulated by the religious norms. They also sought a balance in their families. Therefore, they married young men who were suitable for their ages and culture, taking pride in their husbands' academic certificates. Young women, who graduated from colleges, were ashamed of saying that they would marry contractors if their families tried to force them into marrying these men.

Regrettably, some young women, particularly in Baghdad, marry for money and not [word inistinct]. A woman who marries for money will commit many wrongdoings because she will later search for a man after having been satisfied with money. She will search for a man who has balanced thinking, character, education, attitudes, and a relationship with her. She will not abandon such a husband who provides her with the requirements of a permanent family life. Such a man is not shaped by [? money] but by other factors and circumstances.

A young man who has money but does not have knowledge suitable for his age is regarded as mentally bankrupt. There are young men—and I can perhaps name some of them—who possessed much money during the boom but remained mentally bankrupt, illiterate, or semi-illiterate. There are many people who cannot read or write but can be very wise. There are many other people, however, who can read and write but cannot be wise people because they did not toil in life for the sake of high principles.

When such a man marries a young girl, she will be lost because after a while he will find that his money can get him another wife. So, what is better for the girl, to get herself into such a mess, or to think in a rational way and find the mother that would tell her, for example, may God show you the way, or the father who would talk to her. Some fathers seem to have left all control to the mothers without playing any role in educating the mother. Some mothers seem to have prepared the girls to marry people with property, without setting any other standards for such an issue.

What does a young man who graduates from college these days own? Nothing. This is not the case only these days; it has always been the case, in Iraq, France, the United States. His father may have property, but should the young man rely on his father's property, I mean in the sense of complete dependence. But if his father has the means and wishes to help him, then this is a favor, an additional favor from his father. He has brought him up, educated him, and now, he is helping him marry. But, in principle, the husband must depend on himself after he graduates, or after he finishes his education, or after he reaches the age at which he should get a job. He should depend on himself if he has (?pride). He is now able to build himself, just like his father and grandfather had built themselves. After all, the husband who struggles, and struggles, and struggles is a better guarantee for a woman than the husband who cannot stand in the face of even the smallest wind, which can move him way from the foundation on which he relied and, also, destroy him.

I think I am not saying theoretical things, but this is the reality in life. If the Women's Union and the young women in the Youth Union and the Students Union wish to return to the original standards, then they should ask the young girl, who thinks she got something, what she get? A girl may see a well-established, 60-year old teacher and agree to marry him, and not to her colleague, who loves her and wants to be faithful to her, and wishes her to be faithful to him, and establish a correct family life. Why, because she says this teacher is well established. True, he is well established, but, let us tell her what she will lose. She will win a garden and drive around in a car. Her colleague who wanted her, but she left him, did not have a car. She now drives around in a car and sits in a well-furnished house. So, true, she will be happy. But for how long? Between 60 and 65. But move to 68, and see what will happen. The man now, who was educated and exposed to culture, knowledge, and thought, is different from the old man in the village who would marry at the age of 110. So, after the age of 68 or 70, she will turn into a nurse, nurse. Nurse for the teacher who is now her husband, or the contractor who is now her husband, or the merchant who is now her husband. Right?

See how much of her life has she lost? She might be happy for 10 years, she may have won those, or maybe only half of them because with a 70-year-old man, she would not go to the al-Razzazah beach to swim, or travel together. And, if they carry their luggage and travel abroad, he would ask her to walk at his pace; and if she walks fast, he would say: Slow down, behave girl. If she tells him she wants to watch television, he will say he is tired and wants to sleep, and she would be staying up alone.

So is this better? Would it not be better if she takes [words indistinct] and the dress she made for her wedding. But to say: My friend had such a fabulous wedding. Who told you this was the criterion for happiness and a sound marriage? Has any husband or wife told you that he or she has benefited in life from such a fabulous beginning; can't this be the cause for troubles in their lives and a source of envy on the part of others.

Speak to your comrades like mothers and sisters. If you do, we be will be able to arrive at a balance. In this case, when we give facilities and, for example, tell the Socialist

Bank to give loans through the General Union of Iraqi Youth to some 10,000 or 20,000 newlyweds a year without interest, for so many years—in this case, the young man would say: Yes. Thank you my socialist state because you have helped me and provided me the opportunity to get married and to strengthen my faith and my own intellectual and psychological foundation, correctly and at an early stage. Take any plant for example, if it is not planted at the proper time, it will not grow well. Is it better to sow wheat seeds at the proper time or during January of February? Which will yield a better harvest? This is the married life? [Words indistinct] is the early and reasonable marriage, better than the [words indistinct] marriage.

I am not referring to any one in particular, but [words indistinct] some Iraqis, but I say what I believe is (?useful). What is worthless, we will leave aide. We hope what I will say will be beneficial.

I refer to the young woman, particularly the young woman. I urge and beg her to insist on the basic conditions for marriage. Happiness which she gains for one or two years only will not last, and may even destroy her. If she discovers that her husband has taken another wife with the same money, what will remain of her happiness? When she gets more mature, at 28 say, and begins to realize that she has married someone, with whom the age gap is so large that she cannot be happy, would she not live the rest of her live in pain, under the burden of a wrong, irreversible decision. It is not a matter of differences in attitudes and character so that she can adapt; rather, it is a matter concerning her life.

All of a sudden, she turns into a nurse and regrets it. Such a state of affairs has its own inherent dangers. Would not such a discovery devastate her soul? Would not such a discovery devastate her optimistic future outlook? It would be better for her to feel that she and her husband are starting life as birds. Have you ever seen a bird carrying a whole nest from the earth and putting it somewhere? Does it not build its nest stick by stick? Do not you see how birds build their own nests, stick by stick?

So, let us learn from birds how to build our nests, stick by stick. If this premise is deemed acceptable, when the state provides people with a bed to sleep on and a mirror to see their faces in the morning, marriage becomes achievable. But if we manage to secure the bedroom, using the Socialist Bank loan, could we secure a car, a furnished house, servants and maids from [words indistinct]? None of the fathers ....[pauses] Some fathers who are lacking in reason, and some mothers who are lacking in both reason and religion, fail to enlighten their daughters and sons about this issue. I have this idea which I want to tell you about. These fathers fail to enlighten their daughters and sons about this. They should tell them the following: What you see is not what we had when we graduated from college. We have spent 40 years building this. You, too, maybe not after 40 years, but after 10 years, or five years, when things become better, will be like us. But make sure that you do not lose your happiness.

Some mothers, snobbishly say: By God, we want our daughter to have a husband who will allow her to lead a life similar to the one she has led at her father's house. Her father might have been a peasant, who could have used his headgear as shoelaces for his shoes. You should tell your daughter that her father was a peasant, and that serpents used to sleep in his shoes. Why are you now saying that you want your daughter's husband to have a house like her father's. Why do you not tell your daughter that her father earned only 28 dinars when he graduated, and that the person with a diploma earned only 36 dinars? I am afraid that the one with a masters degree earned 36 dinars. The salaries were as follows: 22, 28, and 36 dinars.

You should tell your daughter about this. A daughter 18 or 20 years old needs your wisdom and care; and care is not demonstrated when illegitimate requests are encouraged. Care is best shown when the daughters are guided as to where the true path lies. Tell her what is appropriate. Fathers must intervene to enlighten their daughters. Tell your wife the following: You are giving our daughter improper advice. Let me help you, and let us help each other by telling our daughter what is true. [Words indistinct], this talk of yours will not help your daughter obtain any kind of happiness. The girl might seek a man who is already accomplished. Who is an accomplished person? She might be 18 years old. She might agree to marry a person who could be 27 or 25 years older than herself. Is not this so? This age difference is what allows such an accomplished man to have a fully furnished house, a car, and other accessories. This is improper. I want mothers to enlighten their daughters. They must say that when the most basic requirements are secured, girls can find husbands and get married.

It is no disgrace if a dowery does not reflect opulence. Opulence is not the sound yardstick of life. The disgrace is when an honest young man is compelled by unacceptable demands to harm God's rights and the rights of people. When he is caught and punished, he starts pleading. He will be executed. Then she will start complaining: How can this happen? What about my children? You should have thought of this and guided him by telling him: We can live on bread alone if we keep our heads high, adopt an honest and sound stand and feel happiness in accordance with our sound relationship within our family. We should live happily with our children whose blood should not be tarnished by something that was stolen.

We shall inform the socialist bank to grant loans free of interest to the young men who wish to get married. We do not want young men to feel that everything has been prepared for them. We will give them a loan without interest in easy installments so that they may sense the flavor of life.

Let me tell you this true story: Many of our young relatives wanted to get married. We discussed what the family could do for them. Some said they would give them this or that item. However, all this proved not to be enough. Let them buy the rest. Let them assume an important part of the responsibilities so they could appreciate how good life is. [Words indistinct] we all cooperated. This was a source of pride for all of us. This was a source of pride for the mother when she told her daughter: At that time, the unjust, the treacherous, the oppressors, the infidels imposed a siege on our people. They prevented food from reaching us, not to mention medicines. The time came for us to get married, and here is your father who will confirm what I say. I asked him: How much do you have in your pocket? He said: I have [words indistinct]. We went to the socialist bank. We saw that the money we have could only buy a bed. We bought the bed. We bought a mirror and made a frame for it. We bought a bed made from Palm leaves. We continued to live in this state until we gave birth to you. You were born under these circumstances. This is the most beautiful [words indistinct] which of the two states had more impact on upbringing? [Words indistinct] man used to tell his son or his daughter. I am aware of this point [words indistinct] these difficult circumstances. I emphasize it at this meeting.

I am very pleased with what I have heard. God bless your efforts and every honest and sincere effort for the sake of the people and the country. You have an important mission to carry out. God willing, in the various aspects of life and in dealing with it, you have to tackle the difficult circumstances with a new approach, a model approach that will be offered to mankind and not only to the sons of your nation to liberate man's mind, conscience, and a course of action in a manner that serves mankind and real peace, peace based on mutual respect and avoiding injustice. Greetings to the young people.

Saddam Chairs Meeting on Teaching of Koran

JN1406195593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Jun 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, said that Almighty God had chosen the Arab nation to carry the message of Islam, not because it is a nation in which corruption is common—as the anti-Arabs allege—but because it is a nation that is able to absorb and understand the message, and is able to lead jihad for the message's sake. The nation can also always be the leaders of the faith.

This is what has happened since the divine message—the message of Islam—was revealed. This meaning was stressed by God's book in clear verses.

His excellency added: No prophet has come with a divine message from outside the Arab nation and the Arab homeland.

This was said at a meeting chaired by leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, that included Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, head of the Presidential Office, Hikmat 'Abdallah al-Bazzaz, minister of education, Khalid 'Abd-al-Mun'im Rashid, the adviser at the Presidential Office. The meeting was held to discuss teaching of the Holy Koran in elementary, intermediate, and preparatory schools in the next academic year 1993-94. The objective of this plan is to let the new generations understand the real concepts of the message of Islam from its genuine source, God's book, away from any distortion, and to let these generations contemplate the sublime meanings of the clear verses, follow the manners of the Koran and the good ancestors, and avoid thoughts and behavior not accepted by God.

His excellency, may God preserve him, approved the Ministry of Education's plan for teaching the Holy Koran to all school pupils and students from the first elementary class through the sixth preparatory class.

His excellency ordered that 105 million dinars be allotted to secure those parts of the Holy Koran that should be taught. His excellency also ordered that retired teachers should contribute to this national campaign on faith.

It was also decided, within the framework of the plan, to soundly prepare the teachers to teach the Holy Koran through specialized courses and special television programs ordered by his excellency. It was also decided to increase the number of lessons of Islamic education and to include the subject of the Holy Koran in general examinations for the intermediate and preparatory grades.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd-al-Jabbar Tawfiq, head of the educational and scientific department at the Presidential Office.

Saddam Honors Retired, Distinguished Journalists

JN1606075593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 15 Jun 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has ordered the allocation of salaries to all retired journalists. His excellency also ordered the honoring of those journalists who distinguished themselves in the second chapter of the Mother of Battles.

This new gesture was ordered by the leader president on the 124th anniversary of the Iraqi press.

Arab Countries' Continued Economic 'Siege' Assailed

JN1406202393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 14 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jun (INA)—Iraq has called on the Arab countries to follow their consciences and abide by what they accepted under the Arab Economic Unity Council

[AEUC] agreement and the establishment of the Arab Common Market on trade transactions among the member countries.

Iraq's call was made by Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League and head of the Iraqi delegation to the 57th AEUC session convening in Cairo.

Najm said that the continuation of the economic siege on Iraq and the participation of some Arab countries in it under the pretext of what they call international legitimacy resolutions conflict with all the pan-Arab concepts and the objectives the AEUC agreement seeks to attain.

Najm emphasized that the trade dealings among the Arab countries, the movement of persons, and economic transactions among the member countries dictate trade and economic dealings with Iraq in implementation of the AEUC's objectives.

Najm voiced regret at the negative stands by some member countries that completely contradict what they had already agreed upon, and which also still refuse to release the frozen assets in their banks while the resolutions of what they call international legitimacy allow them to do so to secure the basic needs of the Iraqi people.

He said that foreign countries have taken such measures, which vary according to each of these countries, allowing Iraq to use part of its frozen assets in these countries.

He also stated that those who seek to economically strangle Iraq will themselves suffer because the imperialists seek to unilaterally deal with the Arab countries one after the other.

Iranian 'Crocodile Tears' Over Kurds Ridiculed

JN1006122493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 10 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jun (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has ridiculed the crocodile tears of the Iranian regime over what it calls Iraq's violation of democracy and human rights.

In an article published today, the paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says that democracy and human rights are anathema to the key leaders of the Iranian regime and that it is well known that the Iranian people are suffering from deprivation and persecution.

The paper adds that the Iranian regime is contradictary and has been exposed in its attempt to shed crocodile tears over the rights of the Kurdish minority in the region and in its claimed concern about Iraq's unity when it hosted a meeting among the foreign ministers of the Iranian regime, Turkey, and Syria.

The paper says: Anyone who is aware of the past behavior of the Iranian regime—its aggressive acts throughout 10 years of war and its exposed interference in Iraq's domestic affairs—will clearly realize that the claims included in the statement issued at the end of the Tehran meeting are baseless.

The paper explains that the behavior of the Iranian regime and its key leaders shows nothing but determination to be aggressive toward Iraq. Iran did its utmost to harm and conspire against Iraq, as proven by its direct and aggressive eight-year war and by its support for a handful of agents to create chaos and sabotage. Indeed, it also deliberately involved itself in the American scheme by sending tens of thousands of its mercenaries to carry out sabotage operations aimed at achieving the criminal objectives that the direct 30-state military aggression failed to achieve.

The paper denounces the Iranian regime's professed concern over the rights of the Kurdish minority. The paper says: This regime continues to persecute and annihilate the Kurdish Iranians inside and outside Iran. This is what happened to Kurdish leader Qasemlu who was assassinated by agents of the Iranian regime. What happened to this leader happened to scores of Kurdish strugglers.

The paper asks: How can we expect the executioners of the Iranian Kurds to be concerned about the Kurds in a neighboring country, especially the Kurds of Iraq who are now being killed in the border villages by Iranian artillary shelling and raids by Iranian fighter planes under the premise of persecuting Iranian Kurds who oppose the regime? Can the rights of the Kurds be achieved through annihilation? Can democracy be established by shedding the blood of Iranians?

The paper says: A regime that is hostile to its people cannot but be hostile to other peoples. This is obvious in the conduct of the Tehran rulers who are playing a game that no longer deceives anyone. Even the claims that there are extremist wings, led by Khamene'i, and moderate wings, led by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, have proven to be false. All these supposed wings agree on one thing—namely, harboring rancor toward the peoples of the region, coveting their resources, and seeking to expand at their expense.

The paper notes that, since its assumption of power, the Iranian regime has continued to play a deliberate role in keeping the countries of the region threatened and unable to coordinate stands and policies to protect their independence and keep their resources away from colonialist pillaging.

Kurdish TV Channel Begins Morning Transmission

JN1206131593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1043 GMT 12 Jun 93

[Text] Karkuk, 12 Jun (INA)—The Kurdish television channel located in the radio and television complex of al-Ta'mim Governorate has started to transmit its morning programs from 1000 [0600 GMT] to 1400 [1000 GMT], in addition to its evening programs.

The head of the coordination section at the complex said the channel would transmit its programs every day around the year. Technical, material, and administrative requirements, as well as broadcasters, translators, and program presenters have been made available. He pointed out that the Kurdish channel, which started broadcasting on 1 June 1974, covers a large area, including the governorates of the Autonomous Region, with an average of 11 hours a day, including mornings and evenings.

Second Installment on Talabani Interview Aired

NC1606184593 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1617 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Second and last installment of an interview with Jalal Talabani, Patriotic Union of Kurdistan secretary general, by an unidentified correspondent of the London-based newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What is the opposition's situation?

[Talabani] United or dispersed, the Iraqi opposition has carried on its struggle and offered sacrifices and martyrs to liberate Iraq. The opposition has assumed the form of clearly defined currents. The Unified Iraqi National Congress contains important sections of the opposition living in the homeland and working at home, such as the Kurdistan Front, the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution, the Iraqi Communist Party, the Democratic Party based in Syria, the National Turkoman Party, the democratic organizations, some liberal organizations, the Islamic Action Organization, and several parties, bodies, and political figures. An Iraqi opposition exists in Damascus under the banner of the Democratic National Current, which consists of Ba'thists, Nasirists, and national and democratic forces. There are other struggling forces abroad. The two main struggling currents in the arena can agree on a shared program or to become one entity.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What is your role in the ongoing efforts?

[Talabani] I believe our role will remain an active one in unifying the Iraqi opposition and bringing views closer to create a broad Iraqi front.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you believe the differences among the opposition Iraqi factions can be circumvented?

[Talabani] Yes, I believe there are common hopes and goals, a common enemy, and common responsibilities for struggle. But these require all the Iraqi opposition factions to hasten to unify their forces.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you believe Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim will be lucky in promoting his plan and regional efforts?

[Talabani] We wish him success. We hope he succeeds in his noble mission and in his legitimate plan submitted to the Iraqi opposition factions.

[AL-SHARQ AL-ASWAT] Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim wants the National Current to join the Salah-al-Din conference of the Iraqi opposition. Will you meet the National Current on the outcome of the Salah-al-Din conference?

[Talabani] Definitely, I will meet the National Current, our old ally. We share memories and have old relations with it. It is inevitable that we will meet the National Current tomorrow or after that. We will discuss all the issues and topics relating to the unity of the Iraqi opposition and future plans. I hope Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim can persuade the brothers in the National Current to work within the Iraqi National Congress or to find a formula for an alliance between the Iraqi National Congress and the National Current. We seek a joint formula, whether through developing and improving the Iraqi National Congress or through an alliance formula between the congress and the National Current.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Has the National Current placed any conditions on participating?

[Talabani] I have not yet met the National Current. We will see what can be done after we meet.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How do you view Syria's stance or its assistance to the Iraqi opposition?

[Talabani] Syria remains the safe haven and supporter of the Iraqi opposition. Syria harbors and backs the Iraqi opposition. Syria has given this kind of support for over 20 years. For example, we in the PUK started in Syria and received all kinds of support and backing. President al-Asad has formulated a tenacious policy to support the Iraqi opposition and activate a formula gathering the Iraqi opposition sides, without exception, to unify the ranks and forces. We and the brothers in Syria are discussing the ideal formula to unify the opposition.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] From where does the opposition receive the military aid?

[Talabani] We have received no military aid. We rely on the arms our people have. We have Kurdish armed forces belonging to the opposition. We have mujahidin forces operating in the marshlands in south Iraq led by the opposition. We also have al-Ansar forces belonging to the democratic parties and the communists.

All these forces obtained their arms from the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi armed forces during the uprising. But we are now trying to obtain some sophisticated weapons from abroad.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How do you discern reports that the Kurdish objectives in Iraq constitute a threat to Turkey's security?

[Talabani] Kurdish ambitions represented in democracy, human rights, and the Kurdish people's rights within a unified democratic Iraq and a unified Iraqi entity constitute no danger to anyone. They greatly contribute toward liberating Iraq from the world enemy, the dictatorial regime, which constitutes a threat to all the region's states.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] You played a role in convincing [Kurdish Workers Party, PKK, leader] Ocalan to cease his military operations against Turkish interests. But Ocalan said he will resume his attacks against these interests inside Turkey.

[Talabani] First, Ocalan decided to resume the operations against the Turkish forces after the failure to implement a complete cease-fire between the two sides. In the two months of cease-fire, the Turkish forces did not stop their military operations. An extremely painful criminal incident took place when 32 Turkish soldiers, who were being held prisoner, were killed. This was quite regrettable. The PKK leadership promised to investigate this crime and bring those responsible to trial and punish them severely.

It will be a job well done if the PKK leadership speeds up the trial. It would also be very good if the PKK leadership—from the beginning—announced its condemnation of this dreadful crime. I am very sorry for the resumption of operations and fighting. I support the peaceful political solution and believe that acts of violence, military operations, or use of force won't solve pending problems or disputes. The only way to solve them is by peaceful, fraternal, and democratic dialogue.

SAIRI Chairman on Status of Anti-Regime Struggle

PM1606145593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Jun 93 p 3

[Interview with Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, by 'Abdallah al-Dardari in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Dardari] What are the most important points which were discussed during your meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad?

[Al-Hakim] The conversation with President al-Asad was wide ranging. It dealt with the situation in the Islamic world and the region and some issues relating to some states, because they concern us, especially in view of the events our region is experiencing and which impact on the situation in Iraq positively or negatively, depending on their nature. Our conversation focused on Iraq's unity, as there are some fears in the region about its partition. But we do not believe that there are any real justifications for these fears. This is because there is not a single person in Iraq or the Islamic states calling for partitioning Iraq. And the Kurds stressed Iraq's unity in political forums after the emergence of a view that the future Iraqi state should be a federal state.

I also discussed with President al-Asad the issue of the Iraqi opposition's unity, that is, the opposition should be set up on a national basis, namely the Iraqi people's unity and special role in the region. The views were identical.

The third point was the future view vis-a-vis Iraq. In our view, a national government produced by the Iraqi people should come and establish relations of good-neighboliness with the states neighboring Iraq, contribute to defending Islam, Muslims, and the Arab nation, and play a role in the confrontation with the aggression and adventures hatched against Muslims and Arabs in the region.

[Al-Dardari] You spoke with President al-Asad about regional issues affecting the Iraqi situation.

[Al-Hakim] I believe that regional relations are positive and will benefit the Iraqi people's issue. This is because the regime is trying to exploit the tension existing in some relations in the region to arouse fears. For example, the issue of Iranian interference in Iraq. The Iraqi regime is trying to exploit the tension between Tehran and Cairo and between the Gulf states and Iran to arouse fears about Iranian interference, known as fundamentalism in the Western logic. The West encouraged the regime to suppress the people's movement on the pretext that this movement is fundamentalist. I believe that the Iranians have no intention of interfering. Iraq's movement is a people's movement and the rejection is a people's rejection; this is proved by what happened.

[Al-Dardari] Why is the Iraqi opposition renewing its moves?

[Al-Hakim] We have never stopped our moves. The moves take various forms. Even when we are in our centers we make moves inside and outside Iraq. Meetings were held in Syria last year among Iraqi opposition parties and with our brother Syrian officials. As for my visits, they take place when I see that an issue for which we prepared is now ripe and requires a new push. I am doing this pushing. Conditions inside Iraq are explosive and have reached the surface. Regrettably, the press contains very little about what is happening. Conditions in Iraq pressure the regime into taking measures which come to the surface, like the dinar crisis and the tense conditions in the south. The regime admitted that water there is poisoned, accusing other parties of doing that. And the military situation, which developed into clashes with armored vehicles and tanks, inflicted defeat on the regime's sectors—which forced the regime to send in Republican Guard forces. Nevertheless, they failed to achieve their aims.

Measures must be taken to confront these conditions inside the country and to organize the opposition's conditions.

[Al-Dardari] But there is still a clear dispute between the nationalist and Kurdish tendencies over the Salah-al-Din conference. Is there a clear view of how ranks could be united on agreed terms?

[Al-Hakim] I personally did not join the Salah-al-Din formula, as I have to continue to serve all and to serve a unionist formula. And I do not side with one party against the other parties. I have to be for all the parties and all the Iraqi people. Thus I believe it is necessary that there be clarity of view toward one another, as fears tend sometimes to prevail. This is what happened.

The Kurds' position was distorted and we tried to clarify this position through contacts with the other parties. I believe with some serious work an agreement can be reached on a clear formula between the nationalist tendency and the Kurdistan Front. Of course, that depends on those concerned if the right decision is to be made. I believe that present conditions are suitable for agreeing on a formula.

The Salah-al-Din conference has become a thorny issue after the involvement of personal interests, if that is the correct phrase, instead of looking clearly at the substance. There is also the Western intervention question. I would point out that I sent a message to the Westerners via their ambassadors in Tehran, telling them "you want the opposition's unity, but by your intervention you have made this unity more difficult and caused matters to move in the wrong directions—which has led to confusion. If you left matters to proceed normally, there would have been complete unity long ago."

[Al-Dardari] What are the most important points in your political plan which you are proposing in your tour of a number of states in the region?

[Al-Hakim] I proposed that plan after an assessment of domestic conditions in Iraq and regional and international conditions after the uprising inside the country. It is based on five points:

First, creating a popular military organization that relies on the Iraqi people and begins with the capabilities that fought against the regime inside the country. The second point is for this organization to cooperate with the Iraqi Army, not to be in confrontation with it, since a major section of it (the Army) has responded to this idea. As for the Republican Guard forces, they have not responded as yet. There are indications confirming the Army's response, and so we should avoid confrontation between it and the people, and the Army should contribute to the change. The third point is the issue of the opposition's unity, as we need a unionist rhetoric that takes account of the people's nature and the need for Iraq to be a unified country.

The fourth point is regional cooperation and coordination. And this has two dimensions, as the opposition is based in neighboring states; thus we need this coordination so that the opposition will not turn into a tool designed to implement any state's wish. The other dimension is Iraq's relations with states in the region, as the regime waged wars with neighboring states and created crises which are no less worse than wars. Thus we need good relations in Iraq's future. These states are watching cautiously for any change in Iraq as a result of the problems which have occurred with the regime.

The fifth point is the world public opinion question. Our issue is now linked with the international situation, as a number of resolutions have been adopted. Thus we need to prepare the atmosphere so that it will be suitable for change in order to tackle Iraq's future problems.

[Al-Dardari] The U.S. Administration announced that Iraq is compelled to implement the international resolutions even after the regime in Baghdad is changed.

[Al-Hakim] We believe that the international resolutions are divided into two sections: resolutions of an exceptional character with regard to Iraq. And these require reexamination so as to be in line with normal conditions. And resolutions of a fixed character linked with the regime's aggression against the Iraqi people—like Resolution 688—and the neighboring peoples. These resolutions must be complied with even after the Saddam Husayn regime is toppled, because they are linked with the people's interests and the region's security.

[Al-Dardari] With regard to financial compensation for Kuwait, do you believe that post-Saddam Iraq must pay the compensation?

[Al-Hakim] That question concerns the Iraqi and Kuwaiti peoples and is to be discussed after the regime is toppled.

[Al-Dardari] You indicated that military aid was sought from states in the region. What was the extent of the response, and how will this aid be provided?

[Al-Hakim] We believe that the mechanism for change should involve military organization, because the regime is repressive and cannot be toppled through political action and economic embargo, even though these are assisting matters. Past experience proves this. During our talks with the neighboring states its was agreed that this view is correct. They need to provide the objective requirements and conditions for this aid.

[Al-Dardari] Was the issue of providing air cover raised?

[Al-Hakim] Any move will not necessarily require air cover. When we arm and organize the people they will be able to topple the regime without air intervention. If we organize the people militarily, the Baghdad regime will fall within six months at the most.

[Al-Dardari] What is your opinion of the Syrian, Iranian, and Turkish foreign ministers' position announced in Tehran?

[Al-Hakim] The dimension of those meetings is linked to these states' security. Experience has proved that the Iraqi regime is aggressive and a threat to security in these

states. The regime is talking about partition to arouse fears in the region and force it to think about its security. But we reject interference in Iraq's affairs by any state. And the Kurds refuse to turn into a base for aggression against neighboring states.

As for the interpretation of the positions of the three states, which announced their rejection of Iraq's partition and repression, it could differ from one person to another.

16 Jun News Conference Reported

JN1606184093 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Damascus, 6 Jun (SANA)—Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, leader of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], today held a news conference attended by reporters and correspondents of Arab and foreign newspapers, news agencies, and television networks accredited in Damascus.

At the outset of the conference, SAIRI's representative in Damascus engineer Bayan Jabr read the following statement:

In light of the extraordinary domestic conditions in Iraq and the qualitative and quantitative development of the popular and Islamic opposition's action devoted to weakening the ruling dictatorial regime, in light of developments and fears fabricated by the regime and the political color the regime gave to these fears in terms of the unity of Iraq, based on the continuous efforts to unite the opposition's efforts politically and on the ground, and as a follow-up to its political project of struggle presented one and a half years ago, the SAIRI chairman, His Excellency Muhammad Baqir al- Hakim, visited the Syrian Arab Republic after an official invitation, given that it is considered an essential and solid base and an ally of the Iraqi people and opposition.

His Excellency al-Hakim met with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and with our brother officials in Syria. During these meetings, discussion dealt with the various dimensions of all matters concerning the Iraqi issue and the region. These meetings were held in an atmosphere of seriousness and great importance. Discussion focused on the issue of completing the project of the unity of the Iraqi opposition following deliberations with the opposition parties. Discussion also dealt with means to bring the efforts of this opposition to the level of the enormous developments facing the Iraqi cause and to alleviate the suffering of the persecuted Iraqi people, delivering them from the dictatorship oppressing them.

Moreover, in an expanded meeting, al-Hakim briefed the Iraqi opposition parties on the results of his talks with officials in Syria and overall developments in the Iraqi problem and presented useful proposals. He demanded that they adopt a decisive and fateful position, commensurate with the incessant demands on the arena, which could have an important impact on toppling the criminal regime.

Al-Hakim then spoke, saying the most important topic discussed during the visit was strategic future action capable of making a comprehensive change in Iraq, relying on the movement of the Iraqi people, who will be organized militarily at the side of Iraqi Army units. The unity of the Iraqi people, territory, and government, and the issue of the unity of the Iraqi opposition on nationalist principles capable of influencing and winning the trust of the Iraqi people, must be emphasized, he noted.

Al-Hakim said much positive progress was made to adopt a unified position on the issues that were discussed. He added that the importance of the international stand toward changes in Iraq was discussed. He said: "We believe in the importance of the international factor and stand, but this does not constitute a basic factor. The basic factor is the Iraqi people. Change must be made through the Iraqi people's movement and their uprising from within. Outside interference should not be given a chance, as far as the process of change is concerned."

Al-Hakim said: "Other topics about the general living conditions of Muslims in the world and the situation in the region were discussed."

Al-Hakim then answered reporters' questions. Answering a question on the unity of Iraqi opposition factions, he said: "We must work on nationalist principles, pave the way for a flawless national convention, and leave to it the task of making free decisions. We must not set conditions for this convention."

Answering a question on the tangible outcome of the proposed plan, al-Hakim said: "We have taken long strides to implement this plan, which is the only one capable of making changes in Iraq, by cooperation and unity between the people and the Army."

Asked if the aim of the Iraqi opposition is only to topple the regime and about his concepts concerning the establishment of an independent Iraqi state, al-Hakim said: "We believe that in every process of change there must be a goal to be sought in terms of establishing clear, well-defined future conditions to correct errors. We have a conception of the future. I believe the various Iraqi opposition groups have approved this concept, with the exception of the differences on the administration of the Iraqi government." Al-Hakim added: "Concerning this issue, we have resolved it by agreeing to hold a referendum by which the Iraqi people could select the system of government they choose after the downfall of the regime."

Answering a question about the fate of the armed military organization within the framework of the proposed plan, al-Hakim said: "We are thinking of organizing the Iraqi people militarily. The uprising has proven that

even if the entire population rises up against the regime it cannot make a change unless it has the ability to confront the regime's weapons. Therefore, we believe in the need for this organization's unity with the Iraqi Army, and that a united leadership should exist for this organization."

Asked if support for this plan was forthcoming, al-Hakim said: "During my tours of the region, especially the Arab states, I felt an understanding and a readiness to support this plan.

On the unification of Iraqi Islamic forces and the concept behind this, al-Hakim said: "We believe in the unity of Islamic forces and in the unity of all Iraqi opposition political forces confronting the regime. We are working for this. There has been significant progress in this regard."

Asked about demands for a trial of Saddam Husayn as a war criminal by an international tribunal, al-Hakim said: "We began discussing this issue in a precise scientific manner seven years ago, based on documents that indict the Iraqi regime. We have contacted concerned international figures and official and unofficial world establishments. Finally, certain international circles pledged to present this issue officially at the United Nations. This is one of the issues that has been activated and is one of the developments in the international attitude.

Peres: Talks on Golan Arrangements Must Begin Now

TA1706061493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that in the wake of the U.S. announcement that it is prepared to guarantee security arrangements on the Golan Heights, discussions on the security arrangements between Israel and Syria must begin now.

Minister Peres made these remarks last night upon returning from a visit to Austria and Slovenia. He conferred with Slovenia's president, prime minister, and foreign minister.

Gur: No Discussion of Jerusalem at Talks

TA1706092793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur by Dalya Ya'iri on the "It's All Talk" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Ya'iri] How are you this morning?

[Gur] I feel that in the wake of the rumors and reports, we must get to the truth, which is not an easy task, but since we are moving along the path of peace, the general trend is good.

[Ya'iri] We did not think that Jerusalem would be raised at such an early stage of the talks.

[Gur] That is not precisely correct, because I appeared one evening six months ago at a public forum with Faysal al-Husayni, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, and Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat. On that occasion, al-Husayni said exactly the same things he has just said. Therefore, it is not new. And from their point of view, there is no doubt that Jerusalem is a central issue.

[Ya'iri] From our point of view, is Jerusalem an issue for discussion, or will it simply bring the talks to a head?

[Gur] Jerusalem exists and is a holy city. We claim—and I think rightly so—that for us it is a holy city from all aspects, because our history focuses solely around Jerusalem. We have no place where our religion, culture, and statehood developed other than Jerusalem. For us—both religious and nonreligious people—Jerusalem is everything. We cannot, however, ignore the fact that other nations and religions have strong interests in Jerusalem. Jerusalem will remain the united capital of Israel, but an honorable way must be found for coexistence with the other religions.

[Ya'iri] Does the Israeli Government have contingency plans for Jerusalem?

[Gur] No, because everyone has understood that if a debate on Jerusalem starts, it will immediately be deadlocked, because the passions the Jerusalem issue stirs up are such that no free discussion on finding solutions is possible. Therefore, when the Camp David accords were negotiated, it was understood that the Jerusalem issue would be put off. Prior to the Madrid conference, there was also an understanding that if we want to make progress on practical issues that have an impact on daily life, Jerusalem must be set aside. Therefore, the Palestinians' current demand to raise the Jerusalem issue is invalid and is not anchored in the rules set down for the negotiations. Nobody will support it. To my regret, it once again shows that the Palestinians find it very hard to cope with and see reality as it is and continue to mount high horses, which is a fruitless effort.

[Ya'iri] We have no choice but to consider these problems as facts, because they have raised them.

[Gur] No, we will not discuss Jerusalem. First, we must make it clear that according to the invitations to the Madrid conference, that issue is not up for discussion. We are presently deliberating on autonomy, and it is clear that the permanent settlement and a joint capital are not on the agenda. These are not the issues up for discussion right now. If the Palestinians insist on discussing them, they might, God forbid, derail the talks. If both sides are wise—and I hope that is the case—we will discuss the autonomy or self-rule arrangements, allow several years to pass, and then we will be able to discuss permanent arrangements. The atmosphere will improve by then, and we will be able to discuss various aspects of joint life in Jerusalem. I believe, however, that anyone who raises the issue of Israeli sovereignty over united Jerusalem will be sabotaging the talks from the outset.

[Ya'iri] In other words, our delegation has been given very clear instructions not to continue to talk about Jerusalem?

[Gur] It should not have been raised at all, because it is completely outside the context of the talks and is not up for discussion. Speculations and commentaries can be made, but this issue is in no way up for discussion. [passage omitted]

[Ya'iri] We are discussing adequate security arrangements with the Syrians, and Foreign Minister Peres said we can discuss these arrangements now, in the wake of the U.S. secretary of state's intervention. What do you consider adequate security arrangements?

[Gur] The Golan Heights is most important for Israel's security as long as there is a danger from the east. [passage omitted]

There is immense importance to U.S. involvement when talking about security arrangements with Syria. In 1974, 1975, and 1978-79, it was hard to imagine any arrangements without direct U.S. involvement. I believe the issue will crop up at some stage in the negotiations, and there is no doubt that when the security of Israel and the region is involved, the United States will have a very, very central role to play, and we will definitely cooperate. [passage omitted]

Shamir: Extensive U.S. Involvement Unnecessary

TA1706140393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Telephone interview with Likud Knesset Member Yitzhaq Shamir by Dalya Ya'iri in the "It's All Talk" program—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ya'iri] We hear the Palestinians in Washington saying that no progress will be made in the talks if each side insists on claiming Jerusalem entirely for itself. What would you say in such a situation?

[Shamir] I would just say no.

[Ya'iri] And go back home?

[Shamir] This is not an easy problem. I must say that I was not entirely surprised. The moment we agreed to Faysal al-Husayni's participation in the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations, it was clear that he would raise the Arab claim to Jerusalem in a very categorical manner. Nobody could be surprised by this move, because he represents Jerusalem in the eyes of the Palestinians. That is why I objected to the participation of Arabs from East Jerusalem in the delegation to the talks, because Jerusalem is not part of the territories subject to negotiation.

[Ya'iri] Still, it was clear that the issue of Jerusalem would be raised sooner or later.

[Shamir] Obviously. Before the Madrid conference we told the Americans, and the Arabs through them, that Jerusalem would not be a subject of negotiation, period. That is why we objected to any participation whatsoever of Arabs from East Jerusalem in the negotiations about Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza—because Jerusalem does not in any way belong with this issue. The moment Israel agreed to include Faysal al-Husayni in the delegation, our understanding with the Americans and the Arabs that they would not participate was clearly breached. Immediately upon being told on his participation in the talks, Faysal al-Husayni said: This is proof that Israel recognizes our rights over Jerusalem. And now we see the results.

[Ya'iri] Let us move on to the Golan Heights. The U.S. Administration is proposing a symbolic withdrawal on the Golan Heights in anticipation of a peace agreement.

[Shamir] I do not know what the Americans are proposing. I have no doubt that the current U.S. Administration is much more sympathetic than the previous one. Although I have no doubt about it, I am afraid that we are going to spoil them through the very fact that we are constantly pleading with them to get involved and to exert pressure—exert pressure on us, of course. Consequently, the Syrians tell the Americans to pressure Israel to make more concessions. The Americans behave very nicely, but all this is entirely unnecessary. They should not be participating in these negotiations.

[Ya'iri] Do you think the massive involvement of the Americans is dangerous to Israel?

[Shamir] Definitely. It is neither beneficial nor necessary. It is another compromise toward the Arabs. In all their statements through the years, not just under my government, the Arabs did not want to negotiate with us. They wanted to negotiate only with the Americans, because they believe the fate and control of the region is in the hands of the Americans, that if the Americans so desired they could persuade and pressure Israel, that then they would get what is theirs, and that they have no business talking to Israel. This is the Syrian approach, as well as the Palestinian approach.

[Ya'iri] We heard Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur say earlier in this program that the U.S. involvement or promises are of the utmost importance and even crucial to the security arrangements.

[Shamir] We do not need security arrangements in an area that is part of the State of Israel. What do we need security arrangements for? Furthermore, as somebody once said: Who will give us guarantees on the guarantees? Who will guarantee to us that the security arrangements will remain in effect? We have been there before. Prior to the Six-Day War, Abba Eban talked about guarantees for safe passage through the Sharm al-Shaykh straits, but these could not be found in any U.S. archives. Guarantees are of no significance unless one talks about withdrawal. If one talks about withdrawal, then one must look for something, some sort of substitute, which can certainly not appease anybody or compensate for the vast loss Israel will incur through such a decision.

[Ya'iri] If you were steering the talks with the Syrians, don't you think there would be room and need to talk about security arrangements?

[Shamir] What security arrangements? Where?

[Ya'iri] Arrangements to secure the peace.

[Shamir] To date we have heard a lot of talk from Rabin and others that the Syrians meticulously comply with the current security agreements with regard to border crossings and security along the border with them. That is fine, so why look for changes? Who needs security arrangements? Anybody who wants to withdraw from the Golan, anybody who wants to forsake the Golan and hand it over to the Syrians thinks that security arrangements will compensate us for the great loss we will be incurring. As far as I am concerned, the Syrians would not even dream of raising the matter with us. They would know, as they did, that we would never give back the Golan. This is nothing new. The late Golda Meir also held the same view.

[Ya'iri] Yitzhaq Shamir, the former Israeli prime minister, thank you very much.

[Shamir] You were scared a bit.

[Ya'iri] No, not at all. [laughing]

Minister Aloni Calls For Negotiations With PLO

TA1706053093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Text] Minister of Communications and Science Shulamit Aloni has called on the government to speed up the peace process by agreeing to negotiate with the PLO.

Speaking last night at the opening of the MAPAM [United Workers Party] party conference in Ramat Gan, Aloni said that those who refused to sit down with 'Arafat because he has, in her words, blood on his hands should remember that Syrian President al-Asad has just as much on his, and Israel has agreed to negotiate with him.

On the secular-religious dispute, Minister Aloni said the country was in the midst of a clash between cultures and, as she put it, if we surrender we are likely to lose our culture.

Protest March From Knesset to U.S. Consulate Planned

TA1706111893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Israelis protesting against the peace process will end their five days of demonstrations outside the Knesset with a big march across the capital to the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem. The marchers, who are expected to number in the thousands, will begin their march at 5 PM [1500 GMT], and police have warned Jerusalem motorists not to drive on the streets near their route. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Official To Visit DPRK 'Soon'

TA1706060093 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Jun 93 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpts] Eytan Bentzur, Foreign Ministry deputy director general, will leave for talks in Pyongyang soon in the wake of the U.S. announcement it no longer opposes feelers and contacts between the two states.

Foreign Ministry sources reported that Bentzur's planned trip to North Korea was held up for several weeks due to U.S. opposition to continued contacts between Jerusalem and Pyongyang. Following North Korea's announcement that it is no longer opposed to signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and in the wake of this week's talks on the issue between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Vienna, Washington announced yesterday that it is not opposed to the continuation of the contacts. [passage omitted]

Political sources in Jerusalem are very doubtful about Israel having an impact on North Korean missile sales and do not believe that Israel's approach to U.S. Jewry will succeed in coming up with the scope of investments North Korea is demanding of it. Nevertheless, the sources consider continued contacts with North Korea on the missile issue important, and they intend to discuss the possibility of developing economic ties between the two states.

The sources reported that Foreign Minister Peres has so far no intention of visiting North Korea and that Bentzur, who was the one to develop the ties, will continue to handle them in the near future.

South Korea, for its part, expressed dissatisfaction with the developing ties between Israel and North Korea, believing that North Korea's international isolation must be maintained.

Beilin Clarifies Status of Contacts

TA1706121093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Tzvi Lidar—live]

[Text] [Lidar] Why did the Americans oppose the talks between Israel and the DPRK?

[Beilin] We raised it with them when the DPRK wanted to back out of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. I had a meeting in Washington with Under Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff in which we discussed the issue and agreed that as long as the DPRK did not change its decision, we would not hold any contacts with it. On 12 June, it decided not to go ahead with its decision, and then we again consulted the Americans.

[Lidar] Are we asking them not to sell [missiles] to Iran?

[Beilin] This is our only purpose in the contacts with the DPRK. We are very worried by the sale of long-range missiles, those with a 1,000-km range, which can reach Israel from Iran. They are selling these missiles. They have very serious economic problems, and we are trying to find ways to prevent the sales.

[Lidar] As you have hinted, they have economic problems and are therefore selling the missiles to make money. Are we offering money and how are we offering it—by organizing aid?

[Beilin] I do not know the scope of the deal, and it may be too difficult or even impossible to stop. Nevertheless, it is our duty to explore every option. Their economic situation is so bad that, for example, the DPRK leader told his people four months ago that they would have to cut down from three meals a day to two, which is unusual and astonishing. I believe that such distress could lead them to make moves such as selling arms to countries like Iran. Maybe if we provide them with agricultural aid or know-how, which would allow them to expand their food production, we could ease their distress and, eventually, reduce the threat involved in selling missiles to Iran.

[Lidar] It is hard to assume that the tiny State of Israel can feed the entire DPRK population. It has been reported, however, that Israel is trying, and perhaps promised, to arrange aid for the DPRK to the tune of $1 billion. Is this true?

[Beilin] No, we have no such pretensions. If this is what they request, we will give up. This is beyond our powers. We neither have such sums of money, nor can we collect them for the DPRK. This is impractical. If indeed we find that the issue is $1 billion in aid to the DPRK, it may well be that after reviewing the issue, we will drop our contacts with it.

[Lidar] So where do things currently stand? Eytan Bentzur, a Foreign Ministry deputy director general, went there and held talks. How did that turn out?

[Beilin] The DPRK invited Israeli officials, and Mr. Bentzur went there several months ago for an initial exploration, after which, in fact, nothing happened, mainly because of the DPRK decision regarding the nuclear treaty. Now he will go there on a second visit in which we will explore the options more thoroughly and perhaps arrive at some form of agricultural-economic cooperation. We will wait and see. I would like to stress that we are at an exploratory stage, and the entire issue may be removed from our agenda after the visit.

[Lidar] We were under the impression that we were near signing documents and that U.S. intervention prevented us from moving on to this next stage.

[Beilin] No, we are far from this. Nothing was about to be signed. This is simply an effort on our part to thwart a very unpleasant threat to Israel, but we might also fail.

[Lidar] Did the DPRK officials express readiness to even consider stopping the sale of missiles to Iran?

[Beilin] Yes, they said that although they understand the significance of selling missiles to Iran, they have been doing this because of their economic plight. If it could be eased, they would not need the sales. The question is whether Israel can provide them with enough aid to make them decide against selling the arms.

King Arrives in Washington for Official Visit

JN1706053693 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, Her Majesty Queen Nur, and their delegation arrived in Washington from London this morning on an official visit of several days to the United States at the invitation of His Excellency U.S. President Bill Clinton.

His Majesty King Husayn will tomorrow hold official talks with President Clinton which are expected to deal with issues of mutual concern, regional issues, and bilateral ties.

During his visit, his majesty will also meet with a number of senior U.S. officials, as well as politicians and intellectuals.

Israeli Team's Visit, Border Demarcation Reported

JN1706094293 Amman AL-BA'TH in Arabic 16 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] Jordan and Israel have agreed to demarcate their joint border from the southern part of the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Aqaba, thus overcoming the last obstacle preventing the signing of a peace agreement between the two countries following eight rounds of negotiations described by informed sources as easier than the current negotiations with the other Arab teams.

AL-BA'TH has learned that an Israeli delegation visited Jordan in April and spent a night at the Dead Sea Hotel. Accompanied by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, in his capacity as chairman of the Jordanian side to negotiations at that time, the Israeli delegation on Wednesday [not further specified] morning went to the disputed area and demarcated it in implementation of the provisions of the joint agenda signed by the two sides in Washington early in the negotiations.

Informed sources told AL-BA'TH that the agreement to demarcate the border removed the last obstacle preventing the final signing of a peace agreement, which will see light before the 12th parliamentary elections in November.

The sources said Jordan's participation in the 10th round of negotiations and subsequent rounds will only be nominal or formal because there are no disputed issues requiring talks and discussion. Participation will be to complement the presence of other Arab delegations, pending the conclusion of talks on the other tracks, particularly the Palestinian track. The Jordanian-Israeli agreement will then be finally and officially declared.

Muslim Brotherhood Plans Front Opposing Peace Talks

JN1706081693 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Jun 93 pp 1, 16

[Report by Faysal al-Shubul]

[Text] Thirty House of Representatives members yesterday met at the office of the Islamic Movement deputies to discuss the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

In addition to the Islamic Movement (Muslim Brotherhood) deputies, the meeting was attended by another 10 deputies: Dr. 'Ali al-Faqir, Layth Shubaylat, Yaq'ub Qirrish, Fu'ad al-Khalafat, Dr. Ahmad 'Innab, Bassam Haddadin, Ibrahim al-Ghababishah, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi, Muhammad al-Mu'ar'ar, and 'Isa al-Rimuni.

A number of deputies who attended the meeting have said that the conferees agreed to start moves to form a parliamentary front to contact popular figures and political parties with the aim of establishing a grass roots rejection of the current Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The deputies told SAWT AL-SHA'B that a statement to that effect was signed by the attending deputies, except Fua'd al-Khalafat and 'Isa al-Rimuni. The deputies plan to present the statement to a number of figures and parties to add their signature to it.

The deputies also stated that the conferees stressed the need for the popular base to intensify popular opposition until the government withdraws from the peace negotiations.

The Muslim Brotherhood has been declaring its opposition to the peace talks since the Madrid Conference in 1991. The new development in yesterday's meeting was the Muslim Brotherhood's quest to form a front with other parties opposing the negotiations at a time when there is optimism about the possibility of achieving declarations of principles on the various tracks of the Arab-Israeli peace talks. Yesterday's meeting may also be viewed as an early move to win popular support in the next parliamentary elections.

Bomb Kills Fatah Officer, Wounds 3 Family Members

NC1706160593 Paris AFP in English 1548 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, June 17 (AFP)—A bomb on Thursday [17 June] killed a PLO officer and his wife and wounded three other family members when it exploded at their home in a Palestinian refugee camp in south Lebanon, PLO officials said.

The explosion in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp near this coastal city killed 'Ali Iskandar, an officer with the Palestine Liberation Organization's mainstream Fatah faction, Fatah officials said.

Last Thursday the head of the Fatah's prison in 'Ayn al-Hulwah was murdered. Supporters of the Fatah-Revolutionary Council [FRC] of Abu-Nidal are being held in this prison.

Settling of scores between Fatah and the FRC, which oppose the Middle East peace talks, have left 30 people on both sides dead since the start of the year.

Israeli Mock Raids, Shelling, Bombing in South

NC1706085993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Text] Israeli military planes waged mock raids between 1000 and 1010 today on areas east of Sidon, including Palestinian camps.

The occupation forces and the Lahd militia shelled 'Ayta al-Jabal and Haddathah from their positions in Bayt Yahun at 0300. The shelling caused material damage in a number of houses and started fires in the woods near 'Ayta al-Jabal.

According to AFP, a loud explosion occurred Tumat Niha, the cause of which has not been identified.

[In a related report, Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 0815 GMT notes the following: "According to resistance sources, a resistance unit this morning detonated an explosive charge as a patrol of Lahd agents was passing near Niha, killing or injuring all its personnel and destroying a vehicle."]

More Clashes, Air Raids Reported

NC1706120193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Clashes lasting four and a half hours took place this morning between Resistance fighters on one side and the Israeli forces and the South Lebanese Army [SLA] on the other. The confrontation was characterized by seven Resistance operations, a raid by Israeli helicopters on Shaqra, and Israeli artillery bombardment that damaged nine houses.

UN Interim Force in Lebanon spokesman Timor Goksel told our radio that military operations were monitored between 0130 and 0600 today in the areas of Haddathah, 'Ayta al-Jabal, Bra'shit, Majdal Silm, al-Qantarah, Shaqra, Tallusah, and Wadi Tallusa. He added that fierce clashes raged between Resistance fighters on one side and the Israeli army and the SLA on the other. He said that the Resistance fighters used Katyushas in the shelling while Israeli helicopters fired a number of rockets at the outskirts of Shaqra, which lies within the Irish contingent's field of operation. None of the Irish positions were hit. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent has reported that the Israeli forces fired around a hundred 155-mm and 120-mm shells at the areas from where the Resistance operations started, and that helicopters flew over the region throughout the night, dropping dozens of flares. [passage omitted]

At 1300 today, the Resistance fighters attacked the Sujud position manned by the Israeli forces and the SLA with machine guns and rockets. In a statement, the Resistance said that the position was destroyed and that a number of Israeli and SLA soldiers were killed or wounded. The hills of Iqlim al-Tuffah immediately came under intermittent artillery shelling that concentrated on the hills of Mlita, al-Luwayzah, and Jabal Safi.

At 0930 today, Israeli warplanes flew reconnaissance sorties over the areas of Iqlim al-Tuffah, Sidon, and al-Nabatiyah. The Lebanese Army opened fire on the Israeli planes.

Al-Hariri Addresses Conference on Reconstruction

NC1606155893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Speech by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at the opening of the "Reconstruction in Lebanon and Opportunities for Investment and Export Conference" at the Summerland Hotel in Beirut on 15 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] Friends: It pleases me to welcome you to Beirut, the capital that opened its arms anew to Arab brothers and friends. It pleases me to recall the past, of which it is proud, and to see it rise to play the role it has always played. Your incorporating the words reconstruction in Lebanon in the conference title indicates trust and suggests the solidarity that is in line with our ambition to rebuild and develop Lebanon and emerge from a long destructive war to focus on development and rebuilding the infrastructure. We meet you as experts and creative economists. We seek not only to emerge from the ordeal of war, but to strive to cope with the new century, the age, and advanced countries. Lebanon has human potential and resources to meet this goal. We do not deny the task is difficult, but we have one option: To go forward, confront our problems, and shoulder our responsibilities tirelessly and unhesitatingly. [passage omitted]

Friends, through your conference, you realize that Lebanon has largely recovered from its ordeal and regained Arab and international trust. This is manifest in the

reopening of fraternal and friendly embassies in Beirut, the several conferences held in Lebanon, the numerous delegations visiting to invest and contribute to its reconstruction. The loans and aid Lebanon has obtained from the World Bank, Arab development funds, and the EC highlight that Lebanon is not bankrupt. Lebanon also has the assets of its sons. Expatriate capital has begun to return to Lebanon. Financial and political stability has largely been regained.

Friends, we view your large conference as a qualitative step toward building confidence in Lebanon. You represent friendly countries and the expertise of their sons in the fields of economy, investment, and construction. You will see for yourselves all that we need to speed up our work, not only to return to the prewar situation, but to cope with the approaching century. This naturally requires concerted effort and cooperation to proceed together to rebuild and construct. There is no doubt that our free economy, which we are determined to preserve, and freedom are encouraging factors for investment in Lebanon. Lebanon has fulfilled its financial obligations even under the most difficult circumstances. Our past proves this.

Friends, as you convene your conference Reconstruction in Lebanon, be sure that we are resolved to rebuild our country. We have drawn up the plans to achieve this goal from which we will not retreat. We expect your response to be positive. We call on you to trust Lebanon and start work, because everything is available. Do not let any opportunity to assist and contribute slip by, because we are brothers and have a common future and your investments will benefit you and revive our country. Whatever our problems, the potential to rise is available. Share the task.

Friends, we must confront the coming stage together, that of the just and comprehensive peace we seek. That stage is so delicate and serious, involving cultural, scientific, economic, and educational struggle with Israel. We must rise to the challenge and be united. We must chart plans and programs in various fields to confront the challenges. Let your conference, since you are the elite, be an opportunity to pool resources and formulate ideas to reach common denominators to make the confrontation effective and useful. [passage omitted]

Paris Mayor Chirac Arrives in Beirut 16 Jun

NC1706042793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac arrived at 2030 today. He was received at the airport by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Beirut Mayor Minister Muhammad Ghaziri, French Ambassador in Beirut Michel Chatelais, and French Embassy staff.

Chirac headed from the airport to Prime Minister al-Hariri's residence in Quraytim. At 2130, he will attend a banquet hosted by President Ilyas al-Hirawi. Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, who arrived at the presidential headquarters a short time ago, the prime minister, and Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul will attend the banquet.

Hizballah Seen Moving To Control Higher Council

NC1706093593 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 14 Jun 93 p 14, 15

[Unattributed report: "Hizballah Preparing To Take Control of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council"]

[Text] In a bid to control the decisions of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council [HISC], if not to get one of its members elected as HISC chairman, Hizballah has created charity societies in various Lebanese areas, complete with licenses from the Interior Ministry. Those charity societies have a part to play in the coming election of an HISC chairman and deputy chairman.

Imam Musa al-Sadr, the missing HISC chairman, would have reached the legal retirement age of 65 this year, which means that he would not have been allowed to contest a new term as the HISC chairman without a change—requiring parliamentary approval—of the HISC bylaws.

The HISC bylaws give a vote for every Shiite who is a chairman of charity society, a doctor, an engineer, a current or former parliamentary deputy, a current or former minister, a government official with the rank of general director, a university professor, a newspaper owner or chief editor, or an ulema.

Hizballah has created its own ulema "production line." Any Hizballah member who studies for a few months under an ulema who obtained the title in a similar fashion may don a turban and become entitled to both the title of ulema and a vote in the HISC elections.

With the proliferation of Hizballah's turbaned ulema and charity societies, Hizballah will have a strong hand to play in the HISC elections. Hizballah may not actually bid for placing its own man in the chairman's seat, because of the psychological and cultural backlash this could cause, but it may succeed in securing a majority within the HISC bureau of 12 professionals and 12 ulema.

The current HISC bureau, chaired by Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams- al-Din, includes eight Hizballah parliamentary deputies. The extent of Hizballah's grip on the HISC, once its multiplicity of ulema have cast their votes, is anybody's guess.

Currently, Hizballah is going through the voting lists. It formed committees, including deputies and ulema, to get in touch with various organizations and individuals. The committees have visited a number of hospitals, pharmacies, and lawyers offices to "hold consultations" about the elections as part of its—and by extension Iran's—bid to control this independent Arab Islamic bastion.

Al-Shar' Calls Upon U.S. To Act on Peace Process

AU1606211093 Vienna ORF Television Network in German 2000 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Hans Benedict in Vienna on 16 June—recorded; in English with superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Al-Shar'] We are ready to offer the kind of peace that would rule out every relapse into war or a state of war. There would be international guarantees. That would make war impossible.

[Benedict] But everything is bogged down. One side or both sides must give in. The situation is hopeless without compromise. Is compromise still possible?

[Al-Shar'] We think the United States must actively interfere now. It is up to the United States now to get both parties out of the deadlock. We hope it will take much more vigorous and energetic action. We comply with the UN resolutions. The Israelis are not yet willing to implement these resolutions.

[Benedict] What is your worst case scenario, if the 10th round of negotiations breaks down, too, or proceeds as unproductively as the previous ones?

[Al-Shar'] I met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Vienna two days ago, and he assured me that the United States and President Clinton would take over an active role of partner to help us bridge the gap and produce tangible results. Now we are waiting to see what sort of role the United States will play as a full partner. We welcome that role, and the Americans are very well aware that they must force the other side to adopt a fair and truthful position. We are not hindering progress. Now the Israelis must opt for or against peace. We want peace. Now the ball is definitely in the Israeli court.

Commentary Notes Importance of U.S. Role in Talks

JN1606182093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: It has become usual for Israel to precede every new round of peace negotiations in Washington with a certain escalation that casts much doubt on the fate of that round, even before it starts.

During the era of the former government of Shamir, the Israelis used to precede every round of talks with an announcement of a new settlement project in the occupied Arab territories, in order to reaffirm their position rejecting withdrawal from any part of Arab land occupied in the 1967 aggression.

During the current Rabin-led government, rounds of talks are preceded or accompanied by a shelling of areas in southern Lebanon, as happened during the sixth round; by an act of terrorist oppression against the people of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, as happened during the seventh, eighth, and ninth rounds, or by an escalation of the language of intransigence and provocation, which is happening during the current 10th round.

Within this framework, we can find the explanation for the statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the Knesset on the eve of the 10th round of peace talks. He said Israel will not give up all of occupied Golan, even if Syria announces its acceptance of total peace with Israel. Rabin's announcement can only be understood as an attempt to torpedo the 10th round of talks before it starts.

The first session of the 10th round began amid many doubts about whether Israel is truely serious about advancing the peace talks and making progress 20 months after the Madrid conference. Once again, a contradiction exists in the Israeli position when we compare statements by the Israeli delegation made inside the negotiation rooms and to reporters with the statements made by the rulers of Israel on the peace process.

In the position he announced on the eve of the talks to reassure his opposition in the Knesset, Rabin seemed to be dealing with his rivals in the Likud in an attempt to draw nearer to their concept of peace. He did so instead of negotiating with the Arab parties in Washington on ways to move closer to peace.

The Israeli delegation in Washington tried to reduce the impact of Rabin's statements by announcing that these statements were misinterpreted. However, during a news conference he held yesterday, the Israeli prime minister reaffirmed that Israel is willing to withdraw to secure and recognized borders. By doing so, Rabin is replaying the tune of secure borders to avoid any talk about full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

What credibility can be given to any statement by Israeli negotiators in Washington about their seriousness about making peace, after Rabin defined the limit of negotiations at the very beginning? Rabin's position matches that of Israelis who talk frankly about their hostility to peace.

Fair observers must compare the position of Rabin's government, which foils peace efforts, with the serious and sincere willingness pf the Arab delegations to the peace talks expressed during their coordination meeting on the eve of the 10th round aimed at reaching positive results in this round, based on resolutions adopted during the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab states concerned with the peace process in Amman.

In any case, the Israeli position Rabin expressed at the Knesset is totally harmonious with Israeli attempts in the

previous rounds to obstruct any positive outcome, during or before the start talks.

Once again, this confirms that these talks cannot depend on the Israeli position, but depend on the honesty and neutrality of the U.S. cosponsor's position, in its capacity as a full partner in the negotiations—as long as the United States is concerned, as it announced, with making these talks successful.

U.S. assurances about doubling efforts to make progress during this round should be manifested by urging the party obstructing progress—Israel—to abide by the principles of the peace process and to implement the resolutions on which the process was based, including the land-for-peace equation. Only then, we can expect positive results at the end of this round. Otherwise, it will be hard to expect the achievement of such results.

Press Dismisses 'Partial Solutions' in Negotiations

JN1206092093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Jun 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Peace Is Indivisible," the newspaper TISHRIN comments on the Israeli propaganda which speaks about partial solutions and phased settlements on the pretext that such steps can boost the peace process. TISHRIN states that these Israeli allegations and proposals cannot achieve the aspired peace in accordance with UN resolutions and the principle of land for peace. Therefore, the paper notes, when Israel speaks of partial measures and separate deals not linked to a just, comprehensive peace on all fronts, it would in fact be attempting to evade the requirements of peace, maintain its occupation of the Arab territories, split Arab ranks, and undermine the unified Arab position.

The paper says that peace is indivisible and cannot be achieved in installments. No occupation can contribute to the making of peace or serve as a guarantee for it. The paper adds: Yet, continuing to view matters through its own perspective and in accordance with its own wishes, Israel deliberately places the cart before the horse. Israel wants to impose the status quo as the fait accompli and claim that it has contributed to making peace and has done what is required to activate the Washington talks. Meanwhile, all signs and developments affirm that so far, Israel has offered nothing but obstacles and rejected, condemned plans. Therefore, the nine rounds of talks that were held over the past one and one-half years have not resulted in any meaningful step forward toward the aspired objectives of the peace process, which is still unable to achieve any real and effective progress toward a just, comprehensive peace and regional stability and security.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Undoubtedly, Israel's continued statements on partial plans and settlements and separate deals will only lead to further complications and obstacles in the face of the peace process. This is a point which we should be aware of and strongly warn against its consequences. This requires that we adhere to the principles of a just, comprehensive peace, led by a full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories on all fronts.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH also comments on the 10th round of the peace talks and the Israeli obstacles and maneuvers. AL-THAWRAH says: The results of this round of talks should be different from those of the previous round, which fell short of the expectations attached to it because of Israel's failure to honor the pledges that it had made to the United States. Therefore, the Arab states involved in the peace talks, out of their eagerness not to waste the current available opportunity to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in the region, affirmed in their recent statement in Amman that Washington's fulfillment of its promise to play a full-partner role is the guarantee for the implementation of the bases, principles, and resolutions on which the peace process is based in line with the principles of justice and international legitimacy.

AL-THAWRAH adds: When the United States is asked to play a full-partner role in the bilateral peace talks and to effectively and objectively support them, this is to make sure that Washington will ensure a full, accurate commitment, especially on the part of Israel, toward the bases of the peace process, and that Israel will implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 in a manner that guarantees an end to the Israeli rulers' procrastination with regard to the implementation of these resolutions.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: What affirms Israel's intransigence and noncommitment to the principles of a just, comprehensive peace is its rulers' continued rejection of a full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and nonrecognition of the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights in return for a full peace. This is also manifested in their insistence on dropping the question of occupied Jerusalem from the negotiations, failure to be committed toward a full withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights, persistence in imposing the military siege which is leading to a starvation, exercise of bloody terrorism in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, isolation of occupied Jerusalem, and their escalation, especially recently, of the destructive shelling of the areas adjacent to the occupied part in southern Lebanon.

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar Sworn In; New Cabinet Takes Power

BK1706091893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0911 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Text] Kabul, June 17 (AFP)—Golboddin Hekmatyar was officially sworn-in Thursday [17 June] as prime minister of Afghanistan by President Borhanoddin Rabbani in a special ceremony held west of the Afghan capital Kabul, official sources said.

"Hekmatyar's cabinet also took power from the old cabinet today," said an official spokesman for the state news agency Bakhtar.

The new cabinet, which was announced a month ago at a special meeting of mojahedin faction leaders in the eastern provincial capital Jalalabad, was the subject of much political wrangling and one major military clash before final agreement was reached.

Part of the political compromise which led to the acceptance of Hekmatyar's cabinet was the resignation of presidential strongman Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

The defence ministry is now managed by a joint-faction commission headed by Rabbani.

Hekmatyar's inauguration took place near Paghman, about 30 kilometres (19 miles) west of Kabul.

The area is controlled by Rasool Sayyaf, who was allied with Mas'ud in the last two battles for the control of the capital between Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] guerrillas and Mas'ud's defence ministry forces.

Hekmatyar, who was nominated prime minister-designate last March in Pakistani-sponsored peace talks held in Islamabad, has yet to move to Kabul from his headquarters 25 kilometres (16 miles) southeast of the capital.

However, Bakhtar said Hekmatyar would convene his first official cabinet meeting Saturday.

Defense Ministry Commission Agrees on Cease-Fire Issues

LD1606172093 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] The commission of the Ministry of Defense held a session this morning presided over by esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. It conducted talks on ensuring a permanent cease-fire and on turning over heavy weapons to the commission. The commission made the requisite decisions. Esteemed Mohammad Yunus Qanuni, esteemed Mozafaroddin, esteemed Deedar, esteemed Serajoddin, esteemed Hashemi, esteemed Wahedyar, esteemed Dr. Sadeq, and esteemed General Sayd Hasan participated in the commission talks on behalf of the jehadi organizations.

Agreement was reached on the following issues: the observation of the permanent cease-fire, a strong demand upon the cease-fire commission in connection with supervising the cease-fire, and the collection of heavy weapons and their handing over to the commission of the Ministry of Defense. The details of these agreements will be approved in the coming session.

Rocket Attack on Kabul Injures 21

LD1606163293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] As a result of 50 rockets and mortar shells, 15 people were injured in ward five, while as a result of six mortar shells six people were injured in ward 11. A responsible security source told BIA's military correspondent that mortar shells and rockets were fired from a southwesterly direction. They caused much material damage besides injuring our compatriots. Two houses were destroyed in ward 11.

BIA's military correspondent writes: Despite the fact that the Commission of the Ministry of Defense has started its work and has made decisions on observing a cease-fire and on collecting heavy weapons, mortar shells and rockets are still being fired into the city. After removing all obstacles, the people ask: What further pretexts will be used to kill people? Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar, who has been designated as the prime minister of the government, must prevent the firing of rockets. The more the start of the work of the cabinet is delayed, it is clear, the more problems there will be. Killing people with rockets, problems resulting from floods, and subversion by poisoned food are all matters that increase the hardship of the people. When will the government take action to prevent these acts?

Rabbani Addresses Officers on Security Issues

LD1606232693 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1530 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, as you know esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, took part in a meeting yesterday which reopened the Department of Protection and Security of [word indistinct]. After a few verses from the holy Koran were recited, esteemed President Rabbani delivered a speech, to which we draw your attention.

[Begin Rabbani recording] [Arabic verse omitted] [Words indistinct], officers of the Islamic army, personnel of the department of state security, youths, mojahedin, and members of [word indistinct], peace be upon you. All of you know that our glorious revolution is passing through difficult path and [words indistinct] problems. [passage omitted]

Our nation will remain and our nation will reconstruct all the destructions. In every act of reconstruction, of course, and in every act of development and growth, the most important thing of all necessary is the establishment of security in the country. As long as security is not established in the country, no economic move, no cultural, social, and political reconstruction is possible.

First of all, it is necessary that attention be paid to the question of security. Security should be established everywhere: Security in the village and city, in all administrations and all our society should feel secure. We see in our Islamic culture that among the fundamental principles of faiths is the maintenance of security of life, property, honor, and the dignity of mankind. These are the lofty aims of all heavenly faiths. The life, property, honor, and dignity of human beings and Muslims should be secure.

Thus, in our Islamic revolution too, we ought to pay serious attention to the question of security. All, wherever they are and whatever position they occupy, ought to make efforts to maintaining security so that no one feels insecure.

In the past, of course, insecurity was promoted by the state. It was because of that the police of the regime were going to the houses of the people at midnight in order to crush the nation. [Words indistinct] did not feel secure in their productive and economic life. Ulema and the learned were not safe in their areas of education and science. Every family was feeling insecure. As far as it depends on the Islamic state, of course, it considers itself the protector and guardian of security of every individual, every family, and every institution.

Henceforth, the trader and capitalist are not subjected to pursuit and investigation. The scientist and thinker are not subjected to investigation. The politician and [word indistinct] personalities are not subjected to torture and oppression. Everyone ought to feel secure within the framework of law and within the framework of the reconstruction of the country it whatever position they are in.

However, the lack of security which took place after our victorious jihad—it was because those groups, bands, and individual who did not feel deeply, or did not have the feeling or concern, brought about insecurity. Bloody clashes took place. Painful tragedies engulfed our nation. All these pains and persecution deeply disturbed our nation. Henceforth, we hope not to be the witnesses to such bloody and painful tragedies. We hope all to feel their responsibility before God, before history, before the judgment of conscience and the nation—not to engage, henceforth, in fratricide, destruction, bloodshed, and disruption of security. Our security services should realize that their duties are very valuable from religious and Islamic point of view. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Bangladesh

India Blamed for Stalling Repatriation of Refugees

BK1706100593 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 15 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] Bangladeshi tribal refugees living in camps in Tripura State of India are now seeking UN mediation to return to their homeland. They are demanding that their repatriation be made under the supervision of the UN High Commission for Refugees. The refugee leader and former member of parliament, Mr. Upendra Lal Chakma, has sent an urgent appeal to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali in this regard. Diplomatic quarters believe that this sudden move at a time when everything was finalized for repatriation of the refugees could not have taken place without the support of India.

During the recent meeting between the Bangladesh Government delegation led by Minister of Communications Colonel Oli Ahmed and the leaders of the tribal refugees and the People's Solidarity Council, the political wing of the tribal insurgents, no such hint was given that they are going to seek UN intervention for their repatriation and security. After the talks, the leader of the People's Solidarity Council, Santu Larma, who led the tribal delegation hinted that the way a solution to the problem has been found. But after the meeting Santu Larma went into hiding and Upendra Lal Chakma appeared on the scene. Chakma has sent a memorandum to the UN secretary general on behalf of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Tribal Refugees Welfare Association. This memorandum comprises 13 demands. It has been stated in the memorandum that a solution to the Chakma refugee problem is possible only through implementing these demands. The memorandum sought UN intervention in this regard.

It may be mentioned that a massive antirepatriation campaign was launched in the refugee camps of Tripura after the tribal members completed all formalities related to their repatriation. No one was allowed to come out of the camps on June 8—the date fixed for repatriation of the first batch of refugees.

In his appeal sent to the UN secretary general, Upendra Lal Chakma stated that fresh attacks would be launched on the refugees if they return. The demands listed in the memorandum are granting a separate entity status to the Chittagong Hill Tracts in the Constitution, evicting all settlers from the region, and granting permission to the tribals to cultivate mountain crops [jhoom].

Since these tribal refugees fled from the Chittagong Hill Tracts about seven years ago, both Bangladesh and India have pledged to resolve this issue bilaterally. The Indian prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, gave an assurance to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia when she visited India in May 1992 that India would extend all possible cooperation to Bangladesh to solve the Chittagong Hill Tracts problem.

This sudden appeal for UN intervention after all modalities relating to repatriation were finalized following the visit of the Bangladeshi delegation to the refugee camps has made this issue complex and its solution uncertain.

The demands mentioned in the memorandum sent by Upendra Lal Chakma to the UN secretary general were not raised by the tribal leaders during their talks with the Bangladeshi delegation. It may be mentioned that when talks were being held between the officials of Bangladesh and India regarding the Chakma refugee issue, Indian newspapers launched propaganda that the security of the refugees will be at stake if they go back.

Bangladesh says that there are 25,000 tribal refugees in India but the latter contend that the figure is 56,000.

India

Reaction to Corruption Allegation Against Prime Minister

Rao Denies Receiving Any Funds

BK1606163293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has denied that he has got any sum of money from Harshad Mehta. Mr. Rao was reacting to the allegations made by the principal suspect in the security scandal. Earlier during the day, Mehta told newspersons in Bombay that he had handed over 1 crore rupees to a member of the personal staff of the prime minister in two installments. [passage omitted]

The AICC-I [All India Congress-I Committee] general secretaries have described Harshad Mehta's allegations as false, malicious, and basesless. In a joint statement issued in New Delhi today, the four general secretaries, while categorically denying the allegations made by Mehta, said that timing, manner, and accompanying circumstances in which the statement has been issued are indicative of a deep-rooted conspiracy. The four general secretaries are Mr. Janardhana Poojary, Mr. Nawal Kishore Sharma, Mr. Sushil Kumar Shinde, and Mr. Ahmad Patel.

Meanwhile, major opposition parties in separate statements have demanded thorough investigation into the allegations of Harshad Mehta. The Bharatiya Janata Party leaders, participating in the national executive [meeting] at Bangalore, demanded the resignation of the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao.

The Communist Party of India-Marxist has said that public credibility in the government cannot be restored unless the prime minister owns moral responsibility.

The Janata Party in a statement advised the prime minister not to react in haste or resign as the allegations are without any substantive proof. Reacting to the stockbroker's allegation, the Gujarat chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, told newsmen in Gandhinagar that it is an attempt to destabilize the central government. The Maharashtra minister of finance, law, and judiciary, Mr. Ramarao Adik, has commented that there is no meaning in the statement made by Harshad Mehta against the prime minister, as Mehta himself is an accused and he has no proof whatsoever with him to make such allegations.

The Janata Dal leader, Mr. Biju Patnaik, has said that the Indian people should ask Harshad Mehta as to why he had given 1 crore rupees to the prime minister's office. Talking to our Bombay correspondent, he said the man should be banished from the soil forever.

The National Front leader, Mr. N.T. Ramarao, demanded in Hyderabad the immediate resignation of the prime minister and his cabinet following the revelations made by the stockbroker.

The CPI [Communist Party of India] general secretary, Mr. M. Farooqi, said in New Delhi that it is a serious allegation. He said people might no longer trust the prime minister unless he could refute the allegations.

Meanwhile, the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, has termed the allegations as character assassination and said the prime minister has been asked to prove his innocence without any charge supported by credible evidence. Talking to newspersons in Gaya today, the union minister for human resource development, Mr. Arjun Singh, said he does not believe in the revelation made by the stockbroker, Harshad Mehta, about his having made payments to the prime minister. The president of the Maharashtra PCC-I [Pradesh, State, Congress-I Committee], Mr. Shivaji Rao Deshmukh, has described Harshad Mehta's allegations as ridiculous and deserving contempt.

The Congress-I Working Committee will be meeting in New Delhi tomorrow. The AICC-I general secretary, Mr. Janardhana Poojary, said it will meet at 1130 at the prime minister's residence.

The Joint Parliamentary Committee [JPC] probing the security scandal is to consider whether to summon Harshad Mehta again in view of his reported statement in Bombay today. The JPC chairman, Mr. Ram Niwas Mirdha, said this in New Delhi. The committee is meeting on the 21st of this month when the issue will come up. He said the broker has not yet replied to the JPC questionnaire on his alleged payoffs.

Ministers, Party Leaders Comment

BK1606165893 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, has denied that he got any sum of money from stockbroker Harshad Mehta. Harshad Mehta at a news conference in Bombay today alleged that he paid 1 crore rupees to a

member of the prime minister's personal staff in November 1991. Reacting to this allegation, Mr. Rao said he is shocked and surprised at the malicious and unfounded story made up by Harshad Mehta. He said people can very well understand the motive behind the allegation. Harshad Mehta is a key suspect in the 5,000-crore-rupee security scam.

The human resources development minister, Mr. Arjun Singh, said that he does not believe Mehta's charges about having made payments to the prime minister. Mr. Arjun Singh was speaking to newsmen in Gaya. The Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, said no one would believe the wild charges made by Harshad Mehta. Mr. Pawar, who airdashed to New Delhi, said the Congress-I was capable of fighting such blackmail.

Several Congress-I leaders including ministers and members of the working committee met the prime minister this evening to discuss the situation. They expressed support to the prime minister in fighting the efforts to destabilize the country. They included Mr. Bal Ram Jakhar, Mr. S.B. Chavan. Mr. Jaghdish Tytler, Mr. A.K. Antony, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Mrs. Sheila Kaul, Mr. K. Karunakaran, and Mr. R.K. Dhawan. Meanwhile, the council of ministers, the Congress Working Committee, and the Congress parliamentary party executives are meeting tomorrow to take stock of the situation.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has said that in the light of the allegations, the prime minister must resign. In a joint statement, the BJP president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi; Mr. L.K. Advani, and Mr. Vajpayee said the charges must be investigated by an independent authority.

The CPI [Communist Party of India] says that the stockbroker's accusations could be a tactic to put the scam into background. In a statement, the party demanded that he should not be allowed to succeed in his game.

The Janata Dal has demanded the resignation of Mr. Narasimha Rao. The Janata Dal spokesman, Mr. Harikishore Singh, said the prime minister should prove his innocence or resign. However, the Janata Dal leader and Orissa chief minister, Mr. Biju Patnaik, has said he cannot believe Harshad Mehta's allegations. He said it is easy to indict anyone with a view to defaming him, and demanded that the stockbroker come out with the evidence of his charges.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has said that the prime minister has no right to continue in office. Its general secretary, Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet, said the Joint Parliamentary Committee should take responsibility for the scandal. Janata Dal-A leader, Mr. Ajit Singh, said the stockbroker's charges should be fully investigated.

The Congress-I general secretaries have expressed shock at Harshad Mehta's allegations. A statement to this effect was released outside the prime minister's house by the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, this evening. Signed by Mr. Janardhana Poojary, Mr. Nawal Kishore Sharma, Mr. Sushil Kumar Shinde, and Mr. Ahmad Patel, the statement categorically denied the allegation. They said Harshad Mehta's statement is indicative of a deep-rooted conspiracy.

More Reaction; Party Group Meets

BK1706101893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Text] The Congress-I Working Committee [CWC] is meeting in special session in New Delhi today to take stock of the situation arising out of Harshad Mehta's allegations. The meeting began as scheduled at 1130 at the prime minister's residence and is still on. Almost all the CWC members, including Mr. Arjun Singh, Mr. Sharad Pawar, Mr. Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy, Mr. A.K. Antony, Mr. Karunakaran, Mr. R.K. Dhawan, some Congress-I state chief ministers, the party general secretary, Mr. Janardhana Poojary, and the party spokesman, Mr. Gadgil, are attending the meeting. The executive committee of the Congress-I in parliament and the union council of ministers are also scheduled to meet this evening.

The coordination committee of the left parties met in New Delhi today to take stock of the situation arising out of Harshad Mehta's allegations against the prime minister. Talking to All India Radio correspondent, the party general secretary, Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet, reiterating his party's demand for Mr. Narasimha Rao's resignation, said that the Joint Parliamentary Committee should take up the issue. He said the main accused in the security scam, Harshad Mehta, should not be allowed to go scot-free. Mr. Surjeet said that the ruling party should not try to cover up the issue either.

The Shiromani Akali Dal-Longowal has demanded an independent, in-depth inquiry into the allegations leveled by Harshad Mehta against the prime minister. Speaking to newsmen in Bhopal today, the general secretary of the party, Mr. Onkar Singh Thapar, said Mr. Narasimha Rao should not resign unless the charges against him are substantiated. He said accusations of such a wide consequence by a suspect like Harshad Mehta should not be taken seriously, as it may provide an impetus to other criminals to harass eminent personalities.

The National Front chairman and Telugu Desam leader, Mr. N.T. Ramarao, has called for an independent inquiry into Harshad Mehta's allegations. Talking to newspersons in Hyderabad today, he said that President Shankar Dayal Sharma should take immediate action following the allegation. Mr. Ramarao said that the prime minister should have tendered his resignation.

The former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has said that the prime minister should explain to the people in the

wake of allegations made by Harshad Mehta. He told reporters in Lucknow that a mere denial will not be enough.

The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, called on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, this morning. A Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house] spokesman said that the meeting lasted about 45 minutes. The details of the meeting are not known.

Congress-I Blames BJP

BK1706130693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Text] The Congress-I Working Committee [CWC] has blamed the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] for what it called baseless and malicious allegations against the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao. The resolution unanimously adopted at its special meeting in New Delhi today says it is a cynical calculation of the BJP to disrupt the Indian polity and to derive undue political advantage from it. The CWC has said in order to get back political respectability, the BJP is trying to deflect public opinion from the powerful course of anticommunalism by trying to revive anti-Congressism.

The Congress-I Working Committee has unanimously reaffirmed its unflinching support to Mr. Narasimha Rao. The CWC expressed confidence that the people will see through the attempts to malign a leader who has served the country for over five decades with dedication and integrity. The CWC said the categorical denial by the prime minister should bring the whole episode to a close. Any credence to the allegations will only create a dangerous precedent which will make the Indian polity vulnerable to blackmailers. The resolution noted that similar baseless allegations were leveled against former Prime Ministers Mrs. Indira Gandhi and Mr. Rajiv Gandhi to achieve dubious political objectives.

Later, briefing newsmen, the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said the mood of the members at the meeting was of unity and solidarity. He said the human resources development minister, Mr. Arjun Singh, and the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, were actively involved in adopting the resolution unanimously.

Replying to a question whether the party would sue the stockbroker Harshad Mehta, the spokesman said the Congress-I will take the matter to the people's court. Explaining further, Mr. Gadgil said public meetings will be organized to explain the purpose of character assassination and the forces behind it. The meeting, specially convened to take stock of the situation arising out of the allegations by the stockbroker Harshad Mehta lasted for about two hours. All members of the CWC, except the civil aviation minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, who is abroad, attended the meeting. The executive committee of the Congress-I in parliament and the union council of ministers are also scheduled to meet this evening.

At an emergency meeting in Calcutta, the West Bengal Congress Legislature Party today reiterated its total support to the prime minister. The Bihar PCC-I [Pradesh, State, Congress-I Committee] has described Harshad Mehta's allegations against the prime minister as a ruse to cover his own sins. In a press release in Patna, the PCC-I expressed solidarity with the prime minister and said the allegations are part of a sinister design to destabilize the country.

The chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee [JPC] probing the security scandal, Mr. Ram Niwas Mirdha, has said that various issues relating to Harshad Mehta's allegations against the prime minister are likely to come up before the committee when it meets in New Delhi on Monday next. He said a copy of the broker's statement made in Bombay yesterday has been received by the committee. The JPC will consider summoning the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] director and Harshad Mehta for examination on the alleged payoff issue. Mr. Mirdha said the suggestion of some committee members that the prime minister should also appear before the JPC will be considered.

The Janata Dal has said that a high office such as that of the prime minister should be above all suspicions. The party spokesman, Mr. Harikishore Singh, told newspersons in New Delhi today that the president should take note of the situation and carry out his constitutional prerogatives. He said the prime minister's denial of allegations of Harshad Mehta should be scrutinized by the JPC or a high-level judicial commission.

The left front parties have also said that the prime minister should not continue in office till a full inquiry, including the JPC investigations, exposes the actual ramifications. In a joint statement issued by the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], CPI, Forward Bloc, and RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party], after meeting in New Delhi today, the front said there should be no letup in efforts to punish Harshad Mehta and all others found guilty in the security scam.

Commentary Views Accuser's Motives

BK1706042493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Commentary by S. Vishwam of DECCAN CHRONICLE]

[Text] The nation has been considerably reassured by the prime minister's prompt and categorical refutation of the charges of corruption levelled against him by the main criminal in the security scandal case, Harshad Mehta. Once it was known that Harshad Mehta was preparing to make certain disclosures at a special press conference on Wednesday [16 June] afternoon in Bombay, there was naturally much excitement in political and media circles. The broker's disclosures, however, bordered on the implausible. He not only made the far-fetched charge that he had handed over huge amounts in cash to the prime minister in person but also

that this transaction took place on the eve of the parliamentary by-election in (Nandiwal), the constituency from which the prime minister was elected to the Lok Sabha.

In other words, what the broker, whose role in the security scam is under investigation by the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] in the Joint Parliamentary Committee, implies is that he made a substantial contribution to the prime minister's election fund in return for favors. On the face of it, this seems not only slandermongering but also an exercise in political blackmail, obviously undertaken to save himself prosecution for a series of financial irregularities he is charged with.

The prime minister's denial confirmed that blackmail was indeed being attempted. Mr. Narasimha Rao said he was shocked and surprised at the malicious and unfounded story that had been made up. He had not got any money from Harshad Mehta. Denying the allegation, the prime minister said that people could very well understand the motives behind the allegations. What the prime minister left unsaid about the motives was highlighted by the general secretaries of the All India Congress Committee. In a statement, they not only denied the allegations but found in the timing, manner, and accompanying circumstances a deep-rooted conspiracy.

A pattern seem to be emerging with the forces of destabilization out to hijack the political process. The objective of the broker and also of his advisers appears to be to derail the proceedings of the Joint Parliamentary Committee [JPC] probing the security scandal. The JPC is about to draft its report to parliament. According to the AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] office bearers, two objectives were sought to be achieved by Harshad Mehta at one blow: to gain immunity from prosecution and punishment for perpetrating the massive 5,000 crore rupee fraud on the nation; secondly, to seek to create suspicion in a direction of his choosing. It is shocking beyond words—the statement said that we are being asked not to punish but to condone the misdeeds of such a person.

It must be remembered that ever since the inquiries into the scam began, Harshad Mehta was consistently evading telling the truth to the investigating agencies. He also avoided making a clean breast of everything at the JPC hearing.

It is easy to guess why he resorted to the tactics of suggesting a quid pro quo arrangement in which he would make some disclosures in return for immunity. On the face of it, the demand was ridiculous, especially coming from one who is the main accused in a criminal case. The Congress party and the government are no doubt faced with a crisis but as all the party leaders have rallied behind the prime minister, there is every possibility that the crisis will be met with confidence. The party is expected to reiterate faith in Mr. Narasimha Rao's leadership. Such a gesture will dispel all misgiving of any erosion of his authority and also sustain the government's credibility.

Home Minister Sees Improvement in Kashmir

BK1606163993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, has said that there are positive indications toward normalcy in the Kashmir valley. Mr. Pilot told our correspondent in New Delhi today that he could see a perceptible change in the situation in the valley during his latest visit there. Mr. Pilot visited some of the district headquarters in the valley during his four-day tour. He said the special recruitment drive for providing employment to local youth has started.

The railway protection special force has decided to recruit about 300 constables from Jammu and Kashmir. This is part of the central government's drive to provide increased employment opportunities to the youth in the state in different central government departments.

Commentary Criticizes U.S., West on Human Rights

BK1606121593 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Columnist Bhishmapal Commentary]

[Text] The second United Nations world conference on human rights, which started in Vienna on 14 June, must consider redefining human rights. Reviewing and assessing the progress the UN has achieved in this area since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 will not be objective in the changed situation. The Asia-Pacific governments had outlined their agenda at the third preparatory committee meeting held in Bangkok from 29 March to 2 April this year. They had demanded, among others, the enlargement of the scope of human rights and measures to prevent the West to impose their democratic values on the Third World countries without recognizing their primary concerns, such as hunger, poverty, and illiteracy.

Secondly, no country, however powerful, should have the rights to interfere in the internal affairs of another country under the cover of so-called human rights violations. The linking of aid or humanitarian assistance with human rights must not be allowed. Even the first world conference on human rights held in 1968 in Tehran to mark the 20th anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights had exposed the double standards of some of the countries who were very loud in posing as protector of human rights when they themselves had shady record of human rights observations.

Women all over the world are worst sufferers of human rights. Women in both North and South have hitherto

been treated as less than human beings. They are either killed at birth or grossly undernourished during their growing years, battered and abused physically and mentally in and outside the home. They are forced to bear the brunt of conflict and wars, rape, and hardships when men in the families and communities disappear. They have no decisionmaking power, cannot even divorce a cruel husband, while her husband can always divorce her. In short, violence against women is a phenomenon that cuts through culture, race and class, and requires immediate action.

All human rights—civil and political, economic, social, and cultural—are indivisible and must be considered together. The right to development is equally important. Hence, development aid should not be conditional on other human rights criteria. The UN Charter protects the territorial integrity and political independence of member-states and prohibits outside intervention in matters within their domestic jurisdiction. They also acknowledge promotion and respect for human rights. The question is: Can or should the international community or any single country intervene in the internal affairs of a particular state to ensure protection of human rights there, even if this compromises the independence and integrity of that state?

This is what American has been doing in India and elsewhere. The Western countries led by the USA have developed their own concept of human rights and are looking forward to twist the arm of developing countries that oppose or care to protect their economic and other interests vis-a-vis the USA. Countries like Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Lebanon, who hardly understand secularism, much less practice it, are trying to appoint themselves as the protector of Muslims anywhere in the world. Since Kashmir is dominated by Muslims, Pakistan, as self-appointed guardian of Kashmiri Muslims, has been, on one side, instigating them for armed revolt and, on the other, trying to blame Indian security forces for violating extremists' human rights.

The USA, Pakistan, and some other oil-producing Muslim countries care to forget that India is a democratic country with judiciary and press free to take up any case of human rights violations. India has also taken a decision to set up a national commission on human rights under the chairmanship of a sitting or retired judge of the Supreme Court, that includes members of opposition parties and would be free to investigate at its own any specific allegations of contraventions of human rights, like illegal imprisonment, torture, deaths in captivity, and rape. The commission has also been empowered to investigate allegations against the armed forces, paramilitary, and security personnel. Still the USA is bent on arm-twisting of India for reasons other human rights violations, such as pressurizing India to sign NPT [Nuclear Proliferation Treaty] or accept Dunkel proposals, or opening Indian economy to the wishes of the West, that too is not for the good of India but to save the industry of the USA and other Western countries who are reeling under recession. Human rights must not become another weapon some states want to use to browbeat the Third World states which do not want to be divided again. The USA's own record of human rights in Vietnam, Cambodia, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc. speak volumes.

Iran

Habibi Notes Readiness To Help Azerbaijan

LD1606174993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Mr. Habibi, first vice president and government spokesman, said today: The Islamic Republic of Iran vigilantly watches the developments in neighboring states so that the independence and tranquillity of our borders are not marred.

Speaking to an IRIB correspondent today after a cabinet session, he pointed out: Iran is always interested in seeing its neighbors in security and tranquillity. Therefore, taking into consideration the many common religious, cultural, and historical interests with the people of Azerbaijan, we wish that state to enjoy sufficient security and tranquillity.

Mr. Habibi pointed out: If the Azerbaijanis are willing, the Islamic Republic of Iran will not shirk from any assistance in order to end the existing crisis in that country. He said: States which have come out of a long period of domination by the former Soviet Union need economic, cultural, and social development, and this necessitates the establishment of security and tranquillity.

The first vice president recalled: Our past experience shows that war was imposed on us and that we therefore were prevented from continuing with our economic, social, and cultural development plan—based on the principles of Islamic revolution. We think Azerbaijan's current problems will also impede that country's development.

Nateq-Nuri, Velayati Greet Azerbaijani Parliament Head

LD1606162093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] In a message addressed to Geydar Aliyev, Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri congratulated him on his election to the post of chairman of the Azerbaijan Republic's parliament. In his message, the Majles speaker, having stressed the need to expand bilateral relations, has expressed the hope that internal disturbances in Azerbaijan and the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute will come to an end very soon. Mr. Nateq- Nuri's message to Geydar Aliyev also reads: Improvement and strengthening of bilateral relations and expansion of parliamentary ties between the two countries would be conducive toward establishing peace and stability in the region.

In a message addressed to Geydar Aliyev, Foreign Minister Velayati congratulated him on his election to the post of chairman of the Azerbaijan Republic's parliament. In his message, Mr. Velayati has expressed the hope that the efforts of the new chairman of the Azerbaijani parliament will establish calm in that country and that the people of Azerbaijan and the region will witness an end to the hostilities—especially with regard to the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute—and the establishment of peace throughout the region. The message also hopes that the election of Mr. Aliyev will further strengthen and expand the relations between the two Muslim and neighboring countries.

Kazakhstan Delegation Arrives 16 Jun

LD1606131193 Tehran IRNA in English 1023 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 16, IRNA—Kazakh ministers of culture, tourism and sports, and press, arrived in Tehran Wednesday morning at the head of a 95-member delegation and were welcomed by Minister of Education, Mohammad Ali Najafi.

The ministers are here to attend the week-long ceremonies devoted to Kazakhstan's culture and art to be inaugurated here next Friday.

They will also hold talks with Iranian officials, make pilgrimage to the late Imam Khomeyni's holy shrine and tour the historical city of Isfahan.

Moreover, the ministers will sign two separate documents on Tehran-Almaty sport and tourism cooperation with physical training organization and Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance respectively.

Memo of Understanding Signed With Slovenia

LD1706024293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran and the newly independent Republic of Slovenia on Wednesday signed a memo of understanding and agreed to cooperate in the fields of transportation, communication, and the transit of goods and passengers.

According to a report by the Central News Unit, this memo of understanding was signed by Mr. Sa'idi-Kia, Iranian minister of roads and transportation, and Mr. Igor Umek, Slovenian minister of transport and communications, at the end of a two-day visit by Slovenian officials to Tehran.

Iran and Slovenia have also agreed to establish a direct shipping line between the two countries within the next three months and also to cooperate in the fields of the repair and construction of passenger cars and in the mechanization of the two countries' railroads.

Majles Speaker Assesses Psychological Warfare

LD1606180093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Excerpts] The first symposium for studying psychological operations against Iran during the period of the holy defense opened this morning with a speech by Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri in the headquarters of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Stressing the importance of man's spiritual dimension, the Majles speaker described the prophets as physicians for the souls and spirits of different societies. He said: By teaching moral precepts and emphasizing human characteristics the prophets have engaged in positive aspects of psychological efforts; while the satans [taghuts], by resorting to propaganda bombardments, have tried to lead public opinion in the direction of their own interests and their own wishes. [passage omitted]

Mr. Nateq-Nuri said: After the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, world arrogance opened two fronts of physical and psychological warfare against the Iranian people. However, after world arrogance despaired of material warfare against us, it concentrated all its efforts on waging psychological warfare.

He described enemy propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning issues such as the violation of human rights and supporting terrorism and negative propaganda in economic, political, social, and cultural fields against the Islamic Republic of Iran as stemming from the continuation of the same hostile policy. He added: The same people who lay claim to supporting human rights trample under foot the most basic human rights principles and, in fact, terrorism has been nurtured in their own bosom. While they provide 100 percent support for the Zionist regime, which is the greatest terrorist of the present age, nevertheless, each day they chant slogans against terrorism.

At the end, the Majles speaker called on those who are engaged in mass media to reveal examples of the violation of human rights and the terrorist activities of those governments and to draw the attention of the world to the inhumane policies of world arrogance.

Before the speech of the Majles speaker, Mohammed Hashemi, director of the Voice and Vision organization [IRIB], referring to the psychological warfare of the enemies of the Islamic revolution waged for the sake of weakening the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, described the cultural onslaught as one aspect of the extensive psychological warfare against the Iranian people. He stressed the necessity of recognizing, studying and confronting these enemy plots.

This symposium has been organized by the Research, Study, and Evaluation Center [Markaz-e Tahqiqat, Motale'at va Sanjesh] of the IRIB. During two days of discussions and presentation of papers this symposium

will study the psychological warfare waged by the enemies of the Islamic revolution in the course of the holy defense.

Need To Prevent Human Rights Double Standards Stressed

NC1606194193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Station commentary by the News Commentaries Group: "Iran's Plan To Combat Abuse of Human Rights"]

[Text] Along with the convening of the United Nations world conference on human rights, Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Javad Zarif held a news conference in Vienna and presented the Iranian stance on human rights.

He described the Iranian stance as clear, principled, and distinctive, rooted in Islamic tenets. From Iran's viewpoint, Dr. Zarif defined the adherence to human rights as an ideological obligation. The Iranian minister referred to efforts to reap political capital from human rights, stating: Today, human rights are used as an instrument of repression and a means to exert international political pressure. This has resulted in double-sided and preferential approaches to the issue of human rights.

He deemed the conference's main obligation as the establishment of a mechanism to prevent abuses in the name of human rights. The Iranian delegation's proposals to create such a mechanism to combat the abuse of human rights stems from the powerful countries, notably Western governments spearheaded by the United States, constantly insisting on adherence to human rights. In practice, they present their own interpretations and analyses of human rights tailored according to their own political interests.

Such an approach means that these countries treat with indifference or endorse those numerous instances of blatant human rights violations that do not affect their rights.

Conspicuous examples are Palestine and Bosnia-Herzegovina. When Western countries' political interest demands pressure on another country, they use various pretexts to raise the issue of the violation of human rights and use it as an instrument to exert such pressure.

Since international institutions and organizations lack a strong authoritative source to motivate governments to abide by human rights fairly and equally, powerful Western countries make decisions bearing in mind their own political interests. This makes the other countries feel their equal rights have been ignored. This harms the implementation of human rights ensuring society's interests.

Implementing the Iranian proposals would create a mechanism to prevent such abuse of human rights. This would enhance the prospects and progress of safeguarding human rights.

Vienna Conference Assessed

LD1606211293 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1650 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The world conference on human rights has gone through three days of work. The conference, convened in Vienna on the UN's initiative, with the cooperation of world governments, intends to adopt effective and practical instruments and methods for ensuring the observance of human rights throughout the world while strengthening and developing human rights.

The conference, which will continue for 11 days, is being attended by more than 160 governments, many nongovernmental organizations, establishments, and agencies affiliated to the United Nations, and by international experts, mainly from Western countries.

The speeches of the past two days have raised the issue of the universal nature of human rights as well as the double standards and selective approach of the Unitted Nations regarding human rights.

While Western states constantly insist on the universal nature of human rights, other states point out the obvious contradiction between that slogan and the double standards of the United Nations, especially its influential members. The most serious of the objections come from nongovernmental organizations. These bodies, which are taking part in the conference for the first time, at observer level, believe that from all the nongovernmental organizations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, the United Nations has with total unfairness invited only those organizations which are known to hold Western viewpoints on human rights. And it does not stop there: Of all the nongovernmental organizations participating, a hand-picked group of them with known Western viewpoints is present in the committee for drawing up the final conference documents.

Beside the matter of the participants, even on the issue of subjects for discussion a double standard can be seen. During the conference sessions, all attention is focused on the developing countries, without the slightest reference to instances of violation of human rights in the West. No mention is made of racism, ethnic violence, and mistreatment of immigrants and refugees in the West, and there is no talk of the most blatant instances of violation of human rights in Bosnia-Herzegovina. While members of far-flung African and Latin American tribes are allowed to demonstrate and express their view in the entrance area of the conference, the stricken Bosnian refugees are deprived even of the right to stage demonstrations near the conference. Of course Bosnian refugees, in their hundreds, disregarding the ban, have staged

demonstrations and gatherings opposite the conference. This action has played a crucial role in conveying their justice-seeking message.

In any case, the Westerners accuse the developing countries of resisting the wave of the so-called universal human rights, whereas, according to the Indonesian foreign minister, on the basis of UN documents, developing countries are against the imposition of Western principles of human rights. The Westerners intend, through a new interpretation of international peace and security, to make out violations of human rights—along lines determined by themselves—to be violations of international peace and security and to put them under the jurisdiction of the UN Security Council.

In this regard, the U.S. delegation has proposed the setting up of a human rights commission. This viewpoint is being followed with doubt and suspicion by developing states. The impartiality of that establishment is totally doubtful. Thus the Malaysian delegate asked in protesting against the proposal: Can the human rights commission be expected to follow up the cases of violation of human rights against blacks and ethnic and religious minorities in America, Canada, or European countries?

There is no intention for a UN human rights commission, which would constantly dispatch representatives for investigating human rights to Asian, African, and Latin American states, to send anyone to West European countries and America to investigate instances of human rights violations.

In the time left until the end of the conference, the developing states are earnestly defending their positions based on their culture, religion, and real social and economic requirements. It is expected that, through the active participation of developing countries' delegates, the crucial issues will be dealt with in the committee for drawing up the final documents of the conference.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Urges Economic Efforts

LD1606221593 Tehran IRNA in English 1757 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 16, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani urged the nation to strive toward a completely independent and flourishing economy, stressing that a healthy and independent economy is a precondition for the country's independence.

Addressing a gathering marking the martyrdom anniversary of the Islamic Coalition Association here Wednesday [16 June], Rafsanjani said that an independent economy was a difficult and yet practical task.

"Our society has made great strides and therefore its situation cannot be compared with any of the different points in its past. But we are not content yet", he said.

"Our society has to mature with regards to culture and Islam. This maturing has to be so extensively developed that everyone can live in an Islamic environment from birth to death. Some time has to pass before the Islamic culture is fully entrenched in our society", he added.

Commenting on the dependency of the Pahlavi regime's economy, Rafsanjani said: "Had that dependency continued, Iran would have become a poor and totally dependent country, considering the rate of its population growth. Iran would have even become an importer of oil and petrochemical products after its oil wells dried out."

He referred to the Iraqi war (1980-1988) and the reconstruction era and stated that the country is self-sufficient in producing most of its consumption goods.

Regarding the second five-year-development plan, Rafsanjani said that Iran will have a fully independent economy when the major projects of the said plan go on stream.

The projects include harnesing the country's water resources, setting up a wide network of gas pipelines even in the remotest regions, procuring state-of-art technology and producing required foodstuffs in the country.

The country is to start the production of its major industrial goods by the next year and has no difficulty now providing the transportation, water, and electric power for the country, "despite the fact that for the past four years we have been dealing with the difficult task of reconstruction after the war", Rafsanjani added.

"Thanks to our alert leader and the patience and awareness of our people, a good future is ahead for Iran," he felt confident.

Khamene'i Hails Presidential Voter Turnout

LD1606134193 Tehran IRNA in english 1327 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 16, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i on Wednesday termed the massive turn-out of the Iranian voters in the June 11 presidential electionas as a "source of honor and pride" for the Islamic revolution and republic.

"Participation of nearly 17 million eligible voters in the presidential elections made the enemies angry and upset and nullified the propaganda launched by the mass media linked with zionism," the leader told a group of Ulema and theological students.

The trend of Zionist-led propaganda launched worldwide indicate that elections in Iran, particularly the presidential elections, and the number of people voting are of great importance to the enemies of Islam, he said.

"But the Iranian people, through their massive turn-out in the elections, slapped in the mouth of their enemies and infuriated them," the leader of the Islamic revolution pointed out.

The supreme leader said the people's massive turn-out in the elections was a proof of their love for the revolution, the late Imam, and the Islamic republic and government.

The leader called on officials to be careful of their deeds and to correct their actions whenever they consider them not to be in the interest of the people of Iran.

"In the Islamic Republic, officials should lead a modest life and avoid many pleasures and comforts," the supreme leader made it clear.

Elsewhere in his speech, the leader referred to the approach of the Islamic month of Moharram al-Haram and said the foundation of religion is based on ashura, the 10th of Moharram, the day Imam Hussein (peace be upon him) and 72 associates of him attained martyrdom in an unequal battle with the tyrant of the time in Karbala desert.

The great self-sacrificing act carried out by Imam Hussein (pbuh) laid a pattern for the future generations and had many outcomes, the Islamic revolution being the latest of them, said the leader.

Central Bank Governor on Steel Output, Exports

LD1706133193 Tehran IRNA in English 1208 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Text] Tabriz, E. Azarbaijan Prov., June 17, IRNA—Iran's steel exports will amount to 500,000 tons within the next six months and the total production of steel will reach four million tons, deputy governor of the Central Bank, Mohammad Ibrahim Sheybani, said here Wednesday [16 June]. He said that government's share of investments from the gross domestic production increased from 13.2 percent in 1989 to 19 percent this year. He added that a total of three billion dollars worth of non-oil commodities were exported past year, during the same period the growth rate of export of industrial goods was 60 percent, he said.

Sheybani added that the government has allocated rls. [rials] 24,000 billion for subsidies for the current year.

X-Ray Tube for Detecting Uranium Manufactured

LD1606215293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] The first X-ray tube using Cobalt-57 radioactive source was made with the assistance of Amir Kabir Technological University and the Atomic Energy Organization.

According to the report of the Atomic Energy Organization, research for the manufacturing of Gama XRF had continued for one year at the Amir Kabir Technological University and the fuel and [word indistinct] unit of the Atomic Energy Organization.

The X-ray tube can be used for detecting uranium with a high degree of accuracy.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's 'Insidious Ways' Viewed

NC1606165793 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Station commentary: "What Does Hashemi-Rafsanjani Have To Say?"]

[Text] Esteemed listeners: The first four years of Hashemi- Rafsanjani's presidential tenure have ended and soon his second four-year term will begin officially.

Before becoming president, holding the reins of the country's administrative apparatus for four years, he was the speaker of the clerical Majles. He would comment on issues conveying the impression that his views in most instances were different from those of the other leaders of the regime. This is why many Western countries and even some individuals and domestic circles who were very familiar with the nature of the regime were deceived by the insidious ways of Hashemi-Rafsanjani. They began to believe that if he led the country's affairs, he would create changes in foreign policy and on the domestic level and the clerical regime would project a logical and more worldly image under the aegis of Hashemi- Rafsanjani's policies and his so-called realistic thinking.

Some Western countries and even some people in our country were deluded by the remarks and maneuvers [preceding word in English] and anxiously awaited the results of the farce of presidential elections four years ago. They construed that the election of Hashemi-Rafsanjani as president of the clerical regime would initiate a new era for the regime and benefit the people. Eventually, Hashemi-Rafsanjani was elected president for the first time and took over the reins of the executive and administrative apparatus.

Four years later, we see the imam's protege performed no miracles; not one measure was effected that benefited the people. From the outset, Hashemi-Rafsanjani strove to blame the defeat of his so-called economic and reconstruction programs and his failure to adopt a policy without duress and harshness on the Majles and to give the people the impression that the clerical Majles was an obstacle to his dynamic and vigorous program.

He sought to project that if the Majles had been more homogeneous, had not opposed the government's programs and policies, and had not obstructed the policies of the so-called technocrat government and the allegedly realistic president, the situation in the country would be totally different, a source of joy and prosperity for the people.

The charade of the parliamentary elections was staged in accordance with the wishes of Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the composition of the Majles deputies was changed in keeping with his opinions and demands. Even then, Hashemi-Rafsanjani could not create any change in the regime's policy and attitude. Four years on, we see the economy has deteriorated further.

The so-called reconstruction program remains only on paper and as part of the regime's propaganda. [Word indistinct] and intervention in other countries' internal affairs continue as before and there is a danger of the regime extending this policy to the neighboring countries. The regime perpetrated many, extensive terrorist acts in these four years and conspicuously violated and trampled on human rights on a large scale. For this, the regime has been censured more than ever by humanitarian circles and associations.

Disregard and disrespect for international norms and regulations by the regime and government have relegated this regime further into isolation and projected a repulsive and harsh visage of the Islamic Republic to the world. The four-year performance of the Hashemi- Rafsanjani government has removed all doubts in the minds of the West and those naive individuals here and has driven it home that all Hashemi-Rafsanjani, any other cleric, and this regime can provide are killings, strangulation, and the hatching of conspiracies.

This is why the so-called election and the extension of Hashemi- Rafsanjani's presidential term have had no jubilant reaction. Hashemi-Rafsanjani has nothing new to say after four years of boasting!

MKO Official Comments on Abadan Refinery Explosion

NC1706084193 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sanabarq Zahedi, secretary of the Iranian opposition National Council and official in charge of Arab affairs at the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO, in Paris, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program, date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Al-Jundi] Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Zahedi] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] Let us start this dialogue with the explosive operations that are carried out every now and then in Iran. The latest of these operations was the blowing up of the Abadan oil refinery.

[Zahedi] Resistance operations entered a new qualitative stage about two months ago. These operations, which are being organized and executed by the mojahedin command center inside Iran, included five series. The recent series of operations, which were carried out on the same day as the farce of the Khomeyni regime's presidential elections, were the biggest of these operations. Among the operations carried out on Friday 11 June, the day of the elections, was the blowing up of the oil refinery in Abadan, the biggest refinery in Iran. A total of 16 explosions occurred in the western sector of the Abadan refinery. The audience knows that oil exports are a matter of life or death for the mullahs regime. Therefore, the regime denied the refinery was blown up. We certainly know that the regime first denies these operations and later confirms them. Less than a week ago, the regime's intelligence minister admitted that an explosion occurred around Khomeyni's cemetery a few months ago. The regime denied the operation at the time. They later admitted that groups belonging to Mojahedin-e Khalq carried out the explosion.

In the same manner, the regime denied the Abadan refinery was blown up. The regime wants to avoid the repercussions such an operation might have on oil exports. They know very well that the blowing up of the Abadan refinery will adversely affect the oil market. The regime knows that it is coming under a big and effective offensive targeted at the nerve center of its economy. Therefore they denied the operation.

For our part, we asked the resistance command center inside Iran to provide us with documents to prove that the explosion occurred in Abadan refinery. We actually received an audio recording a few days ago. It was taped during the operation. We could hear the sound of the explosions as they occurred. We also heard the sirens going off. [passage omitted]

MKO Leader Discusses Opposition Strategy

PM1706083493 Paris LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS in French 12-13 Jun 93 p13

[Interview with Mohammad Mohaddesin, foreign relations head of the Mojahedin-e Khalq, by Henri Vernet; place and date not given]

[Text] [Vernet] Your movement has called for a boycott of this presidential election. Why?

[Mohaddesin] Because it is a sham, even the radical factions of the regime have been removed from the race. The crisis in the mollahs' government is so profound that they can no longer risk the slightest change. In most countries, when things are going badly, at least a few people are replaced. In Iran, this is no longer possible, and Hashemi-Rafsanjani will stay in place despite the enmity between him and revolution guide Ayatollah Khamene'i.

[Vernet] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, with his plan to revive the economy by some degree of free market approach, was once favored by the Western countries.

[Mohaddesin] In four years, that program has produced nothing but failures. Inflation, which is officially given as 60 percent, is in fact 400 percent for that period. Payment arrears and the foreign debt amount to $40 billion (for revenue in foreign currency, mainly oil, it is between $15 billion and $19 billion per year—LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS editor's note). More seriously, according to our estimates, unemployment is affecting 15 million Iranians, in other words half of the working population! Recently, the country's main shoe factory closed, leaving 5,000 workers without jobs. And there is

every chance that once the presidential election is over, the rial will once again be devalued, with an accompanying surge in inflation.

[Vernet] Will this government not be tempted to use ideological issues to hold people's attention?

[Mohaddesin] Here too, there is virtually no room to maneuver. Ali Khamene'i, who is only a mullah of the third order, has set the whole of the clergy against him by trying to add religious domination to his political domination—like his predecessor Ayatollah Khomeyni. Rafsanjani has alienated the bazaar which has not seen any of the promised economic benefits. That was to be expected: To attract investors, you have to guarantee a stable and secure legislative and political framework. This depended on far-reaching reforms, which Hashemi-Rafsanjani clearly did not have the means to implement. Finally, these two have incurred the wrath of those who formed the regime's militant grass roots—the underprivileged. This is proved by the fact that in 1988 80 percent of the Revolution Guards were volunteers, and this number has now fallen to 30 percent.

[Vernet] In the absence of any legal existence for a real opposition in Iran, what is your strategy?

[Mohaddesin] To create constant tension, to use the regime by forcing it to scatter its forces and hence grow weaker. In practice, our networks on the ground are whipping up social discontent. Last spring, that led to riots in big cities like Shiraz, Arak, Mashhad, and so forth. Then our National Liberation Army, based on the Iraqi side of the border, will march against the mollahs' regime.

[Vernet] It is a vast program.... Do you have the resources?

[Mohaddesin] For the past year, the Mojahedin have been behind no fewer than 700 strikes and demonstrations of all kinds. Above all, we have now moved on to a spectacular kind of military operation deep inside Iran.. For instance, last Monday, we blew up 11 gas pipelines in the regions of Khuzestan and Kermanshah, inflicting $100 million worth of damage. These actions are clearly destabilizing Tehran which has no hesitation in violating international law by bombing the positions of Iranian Kurdish oppositionists and our positions in Iraq. In addition, it is an attempt to make the people believe that the anger being expressed in Shiraz or Esfahan has its origin abroad.

[Vernet] However, the Iranian army, which is benefiting from large equipment purchases, is powerful.

[Mohaddesin] But it is undermined from inside and is a prey to growing disorganization. Just this week, a detachment of Revolution Guards prepared an ambush in the region of Ilan, regarded as a crossing point for mojahedin. It was the Iranian regular army which fired on the Revolution Guards, without anybody really knowing why. As for the air force, a report by General Mansur Savvani, its chief, establishes that 40 percent of its men support us!

[Vernet] The fact remains that the Mojahedin—and the National Resistance Council above them—is not receiving clear support from the international community. Do you regret that?

[Mohaddesin] It is clear that the mollahs' regime owes its survival after 14 years at least half to foreign aid, including European aid. We are asking that the West adopt a very firm stance toward Tehran which, fundamentally, does not present any advantages for anybody: Who stands to gain from the propagation of fundamentalism and terrorism? France has a major role to play here, especially because it is the friend of the moderate Arab regimes threatened by the activism of the ayatollahs.

[Vernet] What actually needs to be done?

[Mohaddesin] There should be an economic and oil boycott of Iran. I would like to point out that, without going that far, the new U.S. Administration is opting for a firm attitude of "containment." Speaking in Luxembourg, Secretary of State Warren Christopher has once again exhorted the Europeans to deprive Iran of technological aid which can be used for both civilian and military purposes. In addition, Washington is pointing to this regime as the main threat in the world. Finally, Bill Clinton and Al Gore, with whom I met last winter, told me that the defense of human rights and democracy will form the basis of their foreign policy. We can therefore expect a response to the murders of oppositionists in exile and to terrorist attacks.

Pakistan

UN Troops in Mogadishu To Get 'Modern Arms'

BK1606154093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Pakistan has again emphasized its commitment to the UN peacekeeping operation in Somalia. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that modalities are being worked out for providing modern arms to the Pakistani UN troops in Mogadishu and that these weapons will be provided soon.

U.S. Said Endangering Troops in Somalia

BK1606123193 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 12 Jun 93 p 3

[Editorial: "Somalia—Pakistani Forces and the United States"]

[Text] A Somali Muslim leader has alleged that the U.S. military command in Somalia sends Pakistani forces on operations in which the Pakistani troops are to directly confront the Somalis, thereby causing the Somali people

to hate Pakistanis. In fact, it is the U.S. troops whom the Somalis dislike. And they applaud as a show of love when they see the Pakistani forces. In view of the way the United States has treated the Pakistanis on many crucial occasions and the way it is using various means to exert military and economic pressure on Pakistan at present, such ceaseless attacks on Pakistani forces in Somalia create suspicion and apprehension among the people. Some prominent political leaders of the country are demanding an immediate recall of Pakistani troops from Somalia. Similar demands have also been heard in the National Assembly and Speaker Gauhar Ayub has admitted that no parliamentary approval was sought for sending troops to Somalia. Although it has been announced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the Pakistani troops will not be withdrawn from Somalia in the greater global interest, the question is why was the approval of an institution that represents the people not sought on an important issue that has a bearing on national security and why is everything decided so superficially? It only buttresses the opponents' allegations that the United States is pursuing a policy of engaging Pakistan in a fight against the people of some Muslim countries and thus creating hatred of it. Therefore, the authorities should act with great caution while making any decision on plans that serve U.S. interests.

'Danger' Seen in Solarz Appointment as Envoy to India

BK1506141493 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 14 Jun 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Stephen Solarz—U.S. Ambassador to India"]

[Text] The United States has appointed former U.S. Congressman Stephen Solarz as its ambassador to India. He is a well-known American Jew who does not care to conceal his friendliness toward India and enmity toward Pakistan. Indians residing in the United States always extend to him their wholehearted support during elections and call him beloved pundit Stephen Solarz.

Stephen Solarz has been the chairman of the U.S. congressional subcommittee which approves U.S. aid for Asian countries. Abusing his status, he had all along been conspicuously trying to stop aid to Pakistan and increase it for India. Pakistan made great efforts to assuage his displeasure. Benazir Bhutto even bestowed on him the Pakistani award of Nishan-i-Pakistan during her tenure as the prime minister. Despite all this, there was no change in his attitude of enmity toward Pakistan. He is coming to India now as an ambassador at a time which is very crucial for the future of the Indian subcontinent.

The United States, under its new world order, wants to see India as a policeman in this region and it is exerting pressure on Pakistan to bow to India's supremacy. On the other hand, Pakistan is suffering from instability and no one knows the consequences of this phenomenon. Given this situation, Stephen Solarz' appointment in India is not devoid of any danger, and it may add up to the difficulties Pakistan is facing. We would like to request the squabbling politicians of Pakistan to pity their motherland and end their feud at this delicate moment and forge unity in their ranks for the sake of the country's survival.

Government Holds Reconciliation Talks With 2 Parties

BK1606151393 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] The government reconciliation team held separate talks with Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam, Fazlur Rahman group [JUI-F], and Tehrik-i-Istiqlal in Islamabad today. The reconciliatory teams of the government and JUI-F continued parleys for two and one-half hours and held in-depth discussions on ways and means to help the country out of the present situation. Both the teams agreed that an atmosphere of understanding and unity should be created at all levels throughout the country for progress and stability of the country and prosperity of the people. The government was represented by the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, Interior Minister Chaudhary Shujat Hussain, Mr. Ajmal Khattak of ANP [Awami National Party], Rai Mansab Ali Khan, and Mr. Hamza. The JUI-F delegation was led by its secretary general, Maulana Fazlur Rahman. The delegation comprised president of JUI-F, Balochistan, Maulana Mohammad Khan Shirani, MNA [Member of National Assembly]; Maulana Alamzeb Khan, MNA; Maulana Abdur Razzaq, central information secretary of the party.

According to the joint statement issued after the talks, both the sides presented their viewpoints in a cordial and constructive atmosphere. They also agreed to continue their discussions in future.

The talks between prime minister's reconciliation team and the Tehrik-i-Istiqlal team were held at the prime minister's house, which continued for two and a quarter hours. The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, was assisted at the talks by the federal health minister, Syed Tasnim Nawaz Gardezi, Minister of State for Population Welfare Rana Nazir Ahmad Khan, and Chaudhary Mohammad Sarwar, MNA. Tehrik-i-Istiqlal leader retired Air Marshal Mohammad Asghar Khan was assisted by Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Mr. Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri, Malik Hamid Sarfaraz, Mr. Umar Asghar Khan, Mr. Khuda-i-Noor, Begum Mehnaz Rafi, Mr. Enamullah Khan, Mr. Sajjad Dar, and Mr. Mohammad Ekram Nagra.

Both sides agreed that the nation expected that its leaders would help create a positive and constructive attitude, besides promoting an atmosphere of mutual cooperation. They also agreed that in order not to disappoint the nation, the process of reconciliation must continue.

In the joint statement, it was agreed that after necessary amendments the parliamentary spirit of the constitution must be revived. It was also agreed that the Eighth Amendment and other anomalies in the Constitution should also be done away with to bring it back to its original form.

Sharif Wants 'Fraternal' Ties With Opposition

BK1706113693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 17 Jun 93

[Text] The prime minister in an interview with the INDIAN EXPRESS correspondent has said that an environment of fraternal relationship between the opposition and the government would strengthen the democratic process in the country. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said the repeal of the Eighth Amendment was the top priority of the opposition-government talks agenda and the government was clear on the subject. The opposition also wants the repeal of the Eighth Amendment. The prime minister said that after resumption of his premiership, he took the initiative of seeking the cooperation of the opposition, particularly the People's Party, in resolving the complex national issues and Ms. Benazir Bhutto responded positively to that initiative.

Replying to a question, the prime minister said the economic reforms and policies of his government have been acclaimed both at home and abroad. About India-Pakistan relations, he said the Kashmir question was the main stumbling block in the bilateral relation between the two countries. He said the only way out was for India to accept the reality and agree to a plebiscite in the Kashmir under the UN auspices.

Bhutto Speaks on Budget, Constitutional Changes

BK1606162793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Excerpt] The National Assembly began discussion today on the federal budget for the next fiscal year. Initiating the debate, opposition leader Ms. Benazir Bhutto, criticized the budget saying that less allocation has been made in the budget for social sectors, especially for education and women's development. She said that inadequate funds have also been allocated for the agriculture, science and technology, and research sectors. She expressed the view that the deficit has increased due to wasteful spending and said that developmental expenditures in the new budget have been reduced by 2.5 percent. She criticized the reduction of tariffs on car imports and said that it will lead to the closure of local industrial units thereby affecting job opportunities. Ms. Benazir Bhutto said that the burden of foreign loans has increased, domestic borrowing has doubled, the budget deficit has expanded, and expenditures on the social welfare sector have been slashed.

Referring to the political situation, the opposition leader proposed a three-point formula to overcome the crisis. The formula includes the formation of a national government, a constitutional package, and the immediate holding of new elections under this constitutional arrangement.

She said that the opposition will cooperate in repealing the Eighth Amendment provided the division of powers among the president, the prime minister, the parliament, and the opposition is redistributed. The opposition leader said that the constitutional package should grant women the right of representation in the assemblies, restore the system of joint electorate, reduce the voting age to 18 years, and give the right of adult franchise in tribal areas and political representation to the people of the northern areas. The package should also allow the opposition to nominate the chief election commissioner and to reorganize the electoral machinery. The appointments of governors and chief justices should be made through mutual agreement between the leaders of the house and the opposition, and the terms of the president, and members of the National Assembly, provincial assemblies, and the Senate should be reduced to four years. [passage omitted]

Editorial Says Budget 'Exercise in Futility'

BK1606114593 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Jun 93 p 6

[Editorial: "At Last the Nation Gets 'the Bridgegroom's Budget'"]

[Text] We have had budgets of all hues and texture: surplus budget and deficit budget; export-oriented budget, import-substitution budget; poor-man's budget, rich-man's budget. Now at last we have what will be long remembered as the bridegroom's budget. Every item that could form part of a rich and sumptious dowry has been placed among the items on which taxes and duties have been generously reduced. What more could a bridegroom ask for? A car, an airconditioner, a TV set, a VCR, a variety of electronic gadgets. Duty on all these luscious dowry items has been slashed. To enable the bridegroom to offer a suitable "jointure" the brides' hairdo and make-up items, such as perfumes and cosmetics have also been made virtually duty-free. To balance this generosity, a 10 percent Excise Duty has been levied on services rendered by the caterers at all wedding halls and "lawns".

The Finance Minister, never at a loss for words, gave some highly sophisticated explanation for his concern for prospective bridegrooms which presently escapes us. The inclusion of these luxury items in the list of reduced duty goods should ensure safe passage of the budget considering that our Parliament, as indeed our national politics, is dominated by in-laws, present and prospective.

On a less matrimonial note. One expected that the Nawaz Sharif governemnt, after its 39-day stint in the wilderness, would have gained a more intimate acquaintance with some of the problems of the poor who came

out to support the dismissed Prime Minister in his valiant struggle for the restoration of the National Assembly. The Prime Minister came in close contact with the masses and he must have seen the wretchedness of their situation. Did he not see men, women and children all victims of malnurition who have no hospital, no clinic, no shelter? He declared that the present unjust social order must be changed. One had hoped that he would take some sensible steps to bring about fundamental changes in our economy. Alas, the budget for the next year gives no indication that the Prime Minister's commitment to change provided any inspiration to his Finance Minister.

Two substantive fiscal measures have been introduced: A 10 percent increase in the price of petroleum-products and a rise in the sales tax from 12.5 percent to 15 percent. Since the price of petrol is linked to a volatile exchange rate the impact of this measure will be felt not only by the owners of big cars but also by ordinary people who will have to pay higher prices on goods of daily use because of increased transport charges. And the increased sales tax on goods, across the board, will push up the prices of all consumer items. This measure may yield a certain amount of revenue but it will certainly raise the prices of goods in daily use and add to the rate of inflation.

The hope that the government might make some reduction in the defence expenditure, too, has been belied. The actual provision for defence expenditure for 1991-92 was Rs 75.75 billion. For 1992-93 it was Rs 82.15 billion though the revised figure jumped to Rs 87.43 billion. For 1993-94 an amount of Rs 89.10 billion has been provided. Where will this money come from?

The net Federal receipts are estimated at Rs 195 billion. Add to this the amount of Rs 22 billion expected from additional taxes and you get a total of Rs 217 billion. Out of this Rs 121.39 billion will go toward debt servicing. Rs 12.54 billion are allocated to General Administration. These two items amount to Rs 143.93 billion leaving the Federal government with a balance of Rs 83 billion which is some Rs 16 billion short of the amount allocated for defence. If this is the state of our revenue resources and inescapable items of unproductive expenditure, can one entertain any hope of any improvement or progress in the social sector? Is it realistic to think of bringing about any change in the fields of education and health except greater apathy and neglect. Our whole future stands mortgaged to growing deficit and dependence on loans.

Look at our rate of growth which was estimated for this year at 6.6 percent. The actual rate of growth turns out to be a little over 3 percent. The reasons that are being offered to explain this fall in the rate of growth could have been easily anticipaed. The phenomenon of deepening recession in Europe and in the United States was no sudden development nor was the trend of declining export prices wholly unexpected. Floods in some parts of the country and the dissolution of the National Assembly cannot possibly be presented as an explanation of our disappointing growth rate. The point to grasp is that the rate of growth forecast in 1992-93 was deliberately exaggerrated and this is precisely what has been done in the current budget. There is no hope whatever that our rate of growth in 1993-94 will touch 7 percent.

Another disappointment in the budget is the absence of any promise to tax agricultural wealth. The Prime Minister says that this matter will be taken up after the Agricultural Commission submits its report. Why was the commission not appointed in time to enable the Finance Minister to take its recommendations into account in the budget for this year? Why is there no committment that the government will tax the income and wealth of the filthy rich and mostly absentee landlords? Clearly, the government finds it impossible to annoy the landlords who are their lords and masters.

Look at the meticulous care with which duties and taxes on cars have been reduced to earn the goodwill of the richer classes. The duty on 1000 cc cars has been reduced from 147 percent to 85 percent; on cars up to 1300 cc from 197 percent to 100 percent; on cars of 1800 cc from 293 percent to 125 percent and so on and so forth. There could have been some justification for reducing the duty on smaller cars but what was the point in reducing the duty from 144 percent to 125 percent on four-wheel drive vehicles which are the favourite of our drug barons and political gun-runners: It is the absence of any plan to revolutionise the economy to provide equal opportunities to all citizens which makes the present budget an exercise in futility, if not hypocrisy. We have no doubt that the budget would be unanimously approved by the National Assembly because there are not many members who would not like to have cheaper cars or richer dowries for their sons. There is little doubt that the budget is meant to get over the present political situation facing the Federal government. There will be more budgets of the same kind in months to come—supplementary budgets, minibudgets, even emergency budgets.

Court Rules on Restoration of Punjab Assembly

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[Text] The Lahore High Court has ruled that the Punjab Assembly stands restored as on the 28th of May and there could be no other interpretation of its interim order of the 9th of June. The court announced its ruling on an application of the petitioner, Chaudhary Parvez Elahi, with regard to the interpretation of the interim order by the speaker of the Punjab Assembly. The speaker's interpretation was that the requisitioned session could not be called as the Punjab Assembly stood dissolved on the advice of the chief minister. The court said the Punjab government and the chief minister, Mr. Manzur Ahmad Wattoo, have acted upon the order of

the court. The chief minister has inducted new ministers and advisers after restoration of the Punjab Assembly and the cabinet.

The court observed that the interim order of the court was very clear and the session of the restored assembly could be called in accordance with the rules and regulations. The high court also accepted an application of the Punjab government and the chief minister to call deponents—Chaudhary Parvez Elahi, Mr. Ghulam Haider Wyne, Raja Ishfaq Sarwar, Chaudhary Afsar Rasul, and others—for cross-examination. The court also permitted the petitioner to give his list of persons including the chief minister, Mr. Manzur Ahmad Wattoo, the provincial minister, Mr. Nasrullah Darishak, and others for the purposes of cross examination. The full bench headed by the chief justice, Mr. Justice Mahbub Ahmad, said it is our prime responsibility to find the truth whether the notice of no-confidence was given first or the chief minister had tendered the advice of dissolution before the notice. The court further ordered that the Punjab government would not arrest any of the deponents whose warrants of arrest have been issued pending the decision. The court will start cross examination of the deponents from Saturday [19 June].

Opposition Party Workers Continue Protesting Court Order

BK1606155893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1314 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, June 16 (AFP)—Workers of the opposition Pakistan People's Party demonstrated for the third day here Wednesday [16 June] against a recent Lahore High Court order.

Some 100 demonstrators of the party loyal to former premier Benazir Bhutto raised slogans against the June 9 interim order which suspended the dissolution of the Punjab assembly ordered by provincial governor Chaudhry Altaf Hussain.

The assembly was dissolved May 29, three days after the Supreme Court reversed President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's April 18 order dissolving the National Assembly and sacking Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

A day later, the assembly in the North West Frontier Province was also dissolved and a petition against the action is currently being heard by the province's high court.

Sharif and his allies called the two dissolutions a retaliatory move by the president.

The interim order was issued pending a final verdict on a petition from Sharif's allies challenging the assembly's dissolution.